

Fair and square



Hackney resident and lead singer of The Blackstones, Leon Leiffer, with a poster of the press for the alternative charity single 'Let's Make Africa Green Again'

A NEW square at the entrance to Britannia Leisure Centre is to be named BRAFA Square after the British Reggae Artists Famine

Appeal (BRAFA) following a vote by residents.

BRAFA was set up in 1984, in response to Band Aid's lack of representation of African and

Caribbean artists. Hackney resident and lead singer of The Blackstones, Leon Leiffer, formed BRAFA with fellow musicians Courtney Carr, Ras

Elroy Bailey, Tony Douglas, Raymond Dangarembizi, Jah Bunny, Ken Kendricks and Gene Rondo. They recorded a charity single 'Let's Make

Africa Green Again', which was performed at a concert in Shoreditch Park, raising thousands for Ethiopian famine relief. **See pages 12-13.**

OUR UNSUNG HEROES

NOMINATIONS are now open for the sixth annual Mayor's Civic Awards, which will celebrate Hackney's unsung heroes who have made a difference in the community over the years and during the coronavirus crisis.

The awards will focus on celebrating Hackney's community spirit, which has seen residents and organisations rallying together to support vulnerable people during the global coronavirus pandemic.

If you know an individual – or organisation – that has made a positive contribution to the lives of Hackney residents, the Council wants to hear their story. This could be an NHS staff member,

carer, teacher, key worker, volunteer, selfless individual, charity or business.

Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville, said: "We would not have got through this past year if it wasn't for the selfless work of our key workers, volunteers and other residents who have been quietly making a positive difference to the lives of Hackney people. These unsung heroes embody Hackney's spirit, and we want to ensure that their work does not go unnoticed."

"Whilst we had to postpone last year's awards, and we're unable to come together physically for this year's awards, it's now more important than ever that we recognise the people who

make Hackney such a diverse, welcoming and inclusive place to live in.

"Recognising this set of awards will cover two years and the need to celebrate the community response to coronavirus. We're expanding the awards this year to ensure we can consider all the different ways that organisations and individuals have made a difference."

Awards will be given to three individuals and three

organisations. Nominees for the Mayor's Civic Awards can be of any age or background. However, if you are nominating someone who is under 18, make sure you have permission to do so.

Nominations will be considered by a panel of judges drawn from across Hackney. Winners will be announced on 26 May.

Go to pages 18-19 for more on what the Council is doing to mark the one year anniversary of the start of the coronavirus lockdown.

MORE INFO

Nominations for the Mayor's Civic Awards close on 15 April. You can nominate your pandemic heroes at: bit.ly/hackney_heroes; or if you require a paper application form, with a freepost envelope, email: emma.wynne@hackney.gov.uk; or call: 020 8356 8444.

inside

2



Coronavirus: latest

22



Power to women

25



What's On

27



Hackney People

29



Behind the Door



Pull out

Our Homes

Hackney



The four steps on the roadmap

- 1 8 MARCH:**
 - Schools and colleges started opening for all students, including wraparound childcare
 - Recreation or exercise outdoors with one other person allowed, but still no household mixing indoors
 - Stay at home message still in place
- 29 MARCH:**
 - Two households, or six people, allowed to meet outdoors – including parks or private gardens – but still no household mixing indoors
 - Outdoor sport facilities to reopen
 - Outdoor parent & child groups (up to 15 parents) to reopen
- 2 NO EARLIER THAN 12 APRIL**
 - All non-essential retail to reopen, including hair and beauty salons
 - Outdoor hospitality to reopen, including pubs and restaurants, but only for outdoor tables and beer gardens
 - Indoor leisure (including gyms) open for use individually or within household groups
 - Libraries and community centres to reopen
 - Outdoor attractions such as zoos, theme parks and drive-in cinemas to reopen
 - All children's activities, indoor parent & child groups (up to 15 parents) to reopen
 - Domestic overnight stays to be allowed (household only)
 - Funerals (for up to 30 attendees), wakes, weddings and receptions (for up to 15 attendees) to be allowed to take place
- 3 NO EARLIER THAN 17 MAY**
 - Six people or two households can meet indoors
 - Most social contact rules lifted outdoors
 - Indoor hospitality and hotels open
 - International travel, subject to review
- 4 NO EARLIER THAN 21 JUNE**
 - All legal limits on social contact removed
 - Hope to reopen final closed sectors of the economy, including nightclubs and large events

Hackney

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Test is best

Follow guidelines on route out of lockdown

Mayor Glanville and Cllr Chris Kennedy getting Covid-19 tests at one of the rapid test sites in the borough

AS HACKNEY, and the rest of England, slowly emerges from the third national lockdown residents are reminded to continue to abide by the rules.

The Government set out its four-step plan to ease England's lockdown on 22 February, but stressed the stages of reopening could be delayed as the roadmap would be led by 'data not dates'.

The falling rates are being driven by the lockdown, social distancing measures and the mass vaccination programme. However, as the rules are eased cases may start to rise.

All residents can now access free, rapid no-symptoms testing and are being advised to get tested at least once a week.

Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville, said: "Regular testing is one of the main

“Regular testing is one of the main ways we can exit this pandemic”

ways we can exit this pandemic. As one in three people with coronavirus don't show symptoms, it is really important that we are all getting rapid no-symptoms tests at least once a week to make sure we are not inadvertently spreading the virus around our community.

"I regularly have to work outside of the home so I make sure that I get a test twice a week. I want to ensure that anyone can do the same."

Cllr Chris Kennedy, Cabinet Member for Health, Adults and Leisure, added: "There are four free and accessible rapid test sites in Hackney. Families with

school-age children can also pick up boxes of rapid tests to use at home. I collected two boxes of tests for my family this week and it is a 'grab and go' process.

"We also want all local employers to signpost staff to these centres and ensure their workers can access them within the working day."

The sites that host tests for people with symptoms in Hackney are now only open in the mornings. During the afternoon they are open for families to pick up packs of no-symptoms rapid tests.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Celebrate Easter and Passover within the rules

RESIDENTS are reminded that they still need to follow the rules when celebrating Easter and Passover.

Easter (2 to 5 April) and Passover (27 March to 4 April) are both taking place before different households are allowed to mix indoors.

At the start of Passover families and friends would usually get together for an evening meal and a special service called a Seder. Due to coronavirus laws, people can only celebrate at home with the people they live with and those in their support bubble.

Easter falls after the Government's easing of restrictions on 29 March, so two households or six people are allowed to meet outdoors, including in private gardens or parks. But residents must continue to follow 'hands, face, space' and remain cautious.

Find local support services
online by visiting find-support-services.hackney.gov.uk

COVID-19
RESPONSE

So, which Covid-19 test should I take?

Regular testing is the best way to help stop community transmission of Covid-19. Here's how to find the right test for you

EVEN if you have received a vaccination it is still important that you get tested regularly for Covid-19 to help stop community transmission.

The Council recommends testing at least once a week. One in three people with Covid-19 do not have symptoms and could be

passing on the virus without knowing it.

That is why if you have to leave home to work or volunteer you should be getting a no-symptoms rapid test at least once a week.

If you have symptoms of Covid-19 you must book a test and self isolate straight away, as per advice below.

Covid-19 support in Hackney

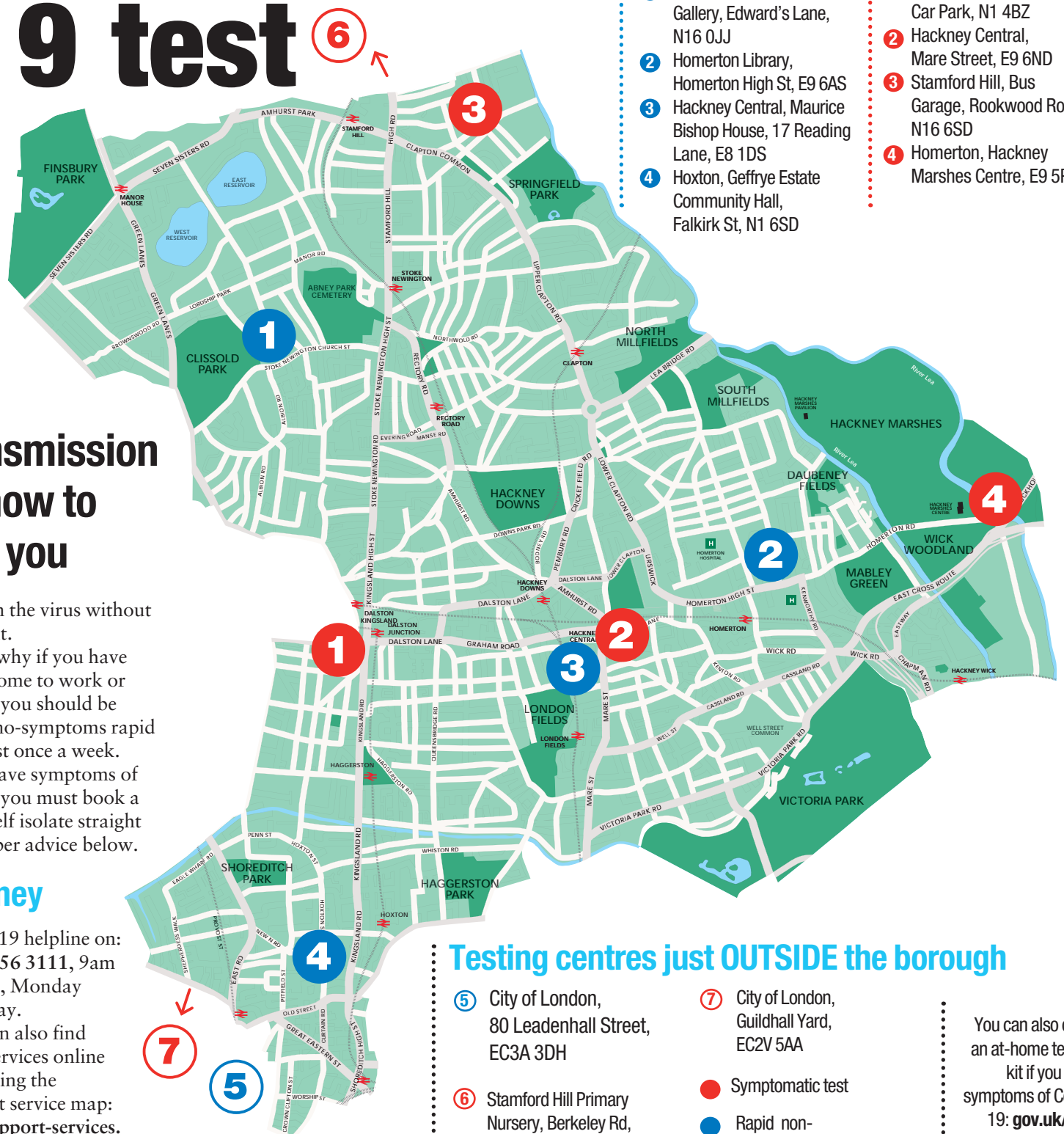
YOU can find information and advice about help available during the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as links to the latest government guidance by visiting: hackney.gov.uk/coronavirus-support

- If you need to talk to us, call our

Covid-19 helpline on: 020 8356 3111, 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

- You can also find local services online by visiting the support service map: find-support-services.hackney.gov.uk

Find your nearest Covid-19 testing site



If I have Covid-19 symptoms

If you have Covid-19 symptoms, even mild ones, you must isolate yourself immediately from other people for 10 days and get the symptomatic test.

What are Covid-19 symptoms?

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

Book the test by scanning the QR code or online: gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119.



If I don't have Covid -19 symptoms

- Rapid non-symptomatic Covid-19 tests provide results on the same day and are for people who do not have symptoms of Covid-19
- If people are required to be in contact with others for work or volunteering throughout the week, then rapid testing at least once a week is recommended
- Even if you have previously had Covid-19, or have had the vaccine, you still need to test regularly as you may still be able to pass on the virus to others, which could make them seriously ill.

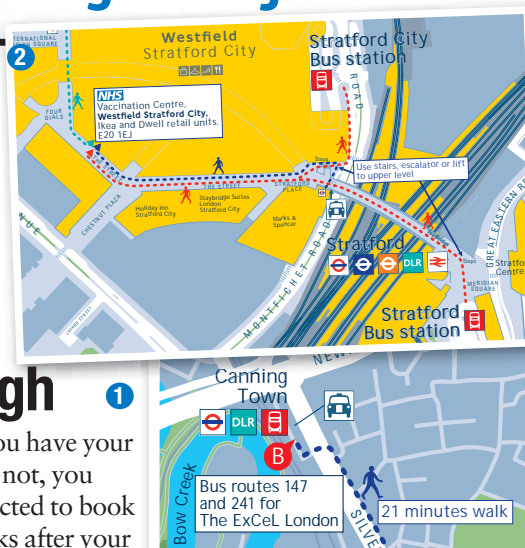
Book the test by scanning the QR code or online: hackney.gov.uk/coronavirus-support



KEEP UP
TO DATE

Remember to wear a face covering on public transport. Plan your journey to the mass vaccination sites at: tfl.gov.uk/jabs

Vaccinations: where to go



The centres in and outside the borough

RESIDENTS over the age of 50 are now being contacted to have their Covid-19 vaccinations. Anyone in this age group is urged to book their appointments.

Eligible residents can now book their appointments using the NHS website. You

only need your date of birth and your address. Book by calling 119 or going to nhs.uk/coronavirus

Residents who have already received their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine are reminded they also need a second dose.

Your GP may book this

for you when you have your first dose but, if not, you should be contacted to book at 10 to 11 weeks after your first dose.

If you don't hear anything about booking your second dose by the end of week 11, or if have any questions, speak to your GP.

Finding your nearest vaccination site

THERE are four local vaccination sites for Hackney residents:

- John Scott Health Centre, Green Lanes
- Bocking Street Vaccination Centre, Hackney Central

- Clockwork Pharmacy, Mare Street
- Busy Bees Pharmacy, Clapton

Appointments at these local sites are generally prioritised for

those who are not able to travel far and second vaccinations for older and vulnerable residents.

MOST non-vulnerable residents will be invited to attend mass vaccination centres. The nearest ones are:

- Westfield Shopping Centre, Stratford
- Excel Centre, Royal Docks, Newham
- Hornsey Central Neighbourhood Health Centre, Crouch End

Local health and care workers may also be offered a vaccination through Barts or Homerton hospitals.

How to travel to Hackney's closest vaccination centres

1 The easiest way to get to the Excel from Hackney is to get the Overground directly to Stratford then take a bus from Stratford Bus Station heading to Canning Town or North Woolwich.

2 The easiest way to get to Westfield from Hackney is to get the Overground directly to Stratford. If you live in north Hackney take a bus to Tottenham Hale, then the National Rail train to Stratford.

THE Government aims for everyone aged 18 and over to have been offered a first dose of the coronavirus vaccine by 31 July.

To be fully immunised, you need to:

- Have two doses of the Covid-19 vaccine at two appointments
- Get the second dose 10 to 12 weeks after getting your first dose.

Vaccines are safe

Dr Sandra Husbands
Director of Public Health



OVER 25 million people across the UK have now safely received their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, including over 52,000 people in Hackney.

I know some people want to have more facts on the vaccine before they decide to take it, which is fine. That is why last week we sent a booklet to all homes with answers to some of the most common questions on the vaccine.

I also know that some people will be worried about the recent news stories involving the AstraZeneca vaccine, which some people thought may have been linked to cases of blood clots in Norway and Denmark.

To date there have been less than 40 reports of blood clots in the over 17 million people who have received this vaccine in Europe and the UK, which the World Health Organisation (WHO) says is actually less than the number of episodes of blood clots that would normally be expected in the population.

In the UK alone over 11 million people have safely received the AstraZeneca vaccine with side effects being reported regularly to the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). Up to 28 February, the MHRA had no more reports of blood clots associated with the vaccine than they would have expected to occur in the population. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) is carrying out a review into the situation, but says that even while it is under review, the benefits of the vaccine outweigh the risks. Along with the MHRA, both the WHO and the EMA have said there is no indication that the vaccine was actually causing the blood clots.

The fact is, the vaccines are safe, they have been through rigorous medical trials and have already been administered safely to millions worldwide from all different backgrounds.

If people are concerned about the safety of the coronavirus vaccines, they can find information about their safety on the NHS website and the Council website to make sure that they have good information to help make up their minds about taking it.

Thankfully, we now have the vaccine programme to help us get out of the Covid-19 pandemic and the government roadmap setting out the cautious steps towards a return to some sort of normality. However, being able to open up the country again depends on the actions we all take to keep the numbers of coronavirus infections down.



Photo: Sean Pollock

What the data in Hackney tells us

In Hackney the current infection rate is 18 cases per 100,000 (PHE data, 18 March) compared to a rate of 929 per 100,000 in the first week of January. 485 Covid-19 deaths were recorded in Hackney in the week leading up to 5 March.

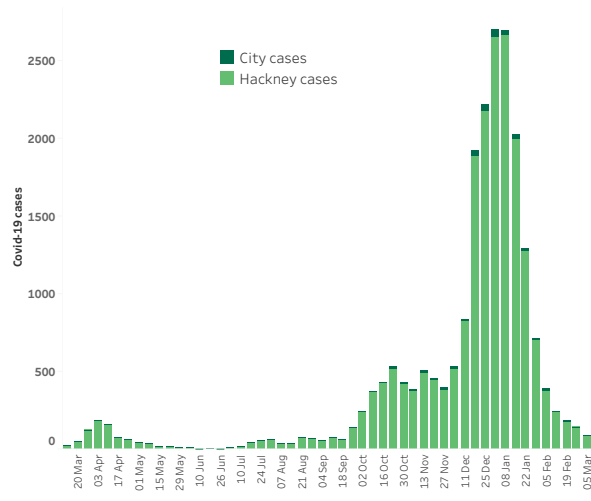
The age group seeing the most number of cases is 20 to 29 years old, followed closely by 30 to 39 years old.

Residents can view the latest coronavirus data in Hackney, including a ward-by-ward breakdown, by visiting: hackney.gov.uk/coronavirus-data

Weekly trend for Covid-19 cases

Hover over the bars to see numbers by week

It excludes the most recent 4 days of data which are subject to reporting delays



Total cases

Registered to 12 March 2021

21,415

20,952 in Hackney, 463 in the City

Weekly Trend

Week ending 12 March 2021

	Cases last week	Incidence per 100,000	Change from previous week
Hackney	50	18	▼44%
The City	2	21	▼50%

R value London

Week ending March 12, 2021

presented as a range

	Lower value	Upper value	Change from previous week
	0.6	0.8	◀▶

This R range means that on average every 10 people infected will infect between 6 and 8 other people. If the range falls below 1 the pandemic is shrinking.

Vaccine permitted in Ramadan

THE Council and local Hackney and City of London GPs are urging Muslims not to delay having their Covid-19 vaccine – first or second dose – during the holy month of Ramadan, which is due to start on the evening of 12 April.

To reassure the Muslim community, the British Islamic Medical Association has reviewed the analysis of Islamic scholars and confirmed that having the vaccine does not invalidate the fast. In addition, the vaccine does not contain pork or other animal, foetal or alcohol products.

Dr Tehseen Khan, who is a GP at Spring Hill Practice in Stamford Hill and a practising Muslim, said:

“Asalamualaikum and Ramadan Mubarak to my fellow Muslims. I urge everyone to have the vaccine when offered, but please continue to follow government guidelines to reduce transmission and help save lives.”

Visit hackney.gov.uk/coronavirus
for information on how the Council
is helping residents during the pandemic

COVID-19
RESPONSE

Celebrating the gift of the jab

Older people discuss the benefits of the Covid-19 vaccine

THERE are now three vaccines which have been rigorously assessed by the UK's independent medicines regulation authority, the MHRA, as being both safe

and effective in helping to protect residents from Covid-19.

These vaccines are provided free-of-charge by the NHS, so no-one needs to pay to be vaccinated.

Over 50,000 people across Hackney have already been vaccinated, with thousands more being vaccinated every week, and over 200 million people across the world have now

safely received a vaccine.

Below, four members of City and Hackney Older People's Reference Group (OPRG) share their experiences of getting the Covid-19 vaccine:

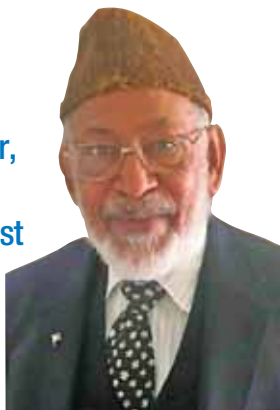
About City and Hackney Older People's Reference Group (OPRG)

CITY & Hackney OPRG has been raising a collective voice for older people to assert their dignity and resist ageism for 16 years, and is the largest older people's group in the area. All residents over 50 are welcome to join the group. For more information, email: Sophie.Ibotson@ageukeastlondon.org.uk; or call: 020 8981 7124.

Cynthia White
Chair, City & Hackney OPRG



M. Saleem Siddiqui
Public Governor,
Homerton
Foundation Trust



Paula Shaw
Member, City & Hackney OPRG



Shirley Murgraff
Member, City & Hackney OPRG



“ WHAT if you could quash the fear of yourself and other Hackney residents becoming seriously ill from Covid?

When the pandemic started, that was a desperate hope. Now it is a reality – we've got vaccines (like we use against flu each year) that ensure that, even if we do pick up the virus, it will be a mild attack, won't require hospital treatment and won't be life-threatening.

Scientists have been able to prove this because enough of us – including the OPRG! – have been safely vaccinated and have since lived healthily, whilst continuing to wear our masks, wash our hands and keep our distance.

At first, I was rather squeamish about getting my jab. Was it safe (there were worrying rumours on Facebook)? Time proved these wrong and dangerous because they stopped people from grabbing the lifeline our amazing scientists and medics had created for us. I've now confidently had both jabs. It is one of the happiest experiences: a free gift of life and peace of mind, with no after-effects that helps others too. **”**

“ TO PUT it most simply – I decided to have the vaccine because it's the right thing to do.

It's providing myself, my family and everyone I come across with a high level of protection; that's a personal responsibility I take very seriously.

I've spent the past four decades working with local community groups, with a focus on healthcare. This has shown me first-hand how important community action is.

I therefore see this effort to get the people of Hackney vaccinated as a whole community imperative.

I was also mindful that as someone from an ethnic minority group, I have to add my voice to this drive.

The black and minority ethnic community have concerns about the speed of the roll out and I really want to avoid a double whammy effect – being disproportionately affected by the virus and then additionally exposed due to a low vaccine take up. We all need to play our part. **”**

“ AS SOON as I heard about the vaccine I was never in any doubt that I would have one.

I can remember the polio jab when I was little and my dad explaining to me why it was important. If there is a safe way to stay well then why not?

I got a text message on my phone from University College London Hospital and immediately booked my appointment.

It was the first time I had been out of Hackney since December and it was exciting to get on the number 30 bus (sat on my own at the front with my mask on) and travel to Euston Road in the snow on 8 February.

The system was well organised, and I felt safe. The staff and volunteers could not have been more helpful and reassuring and it did not hurt. I did feel a real sense of relief and knew I was on my way to being safer. I am currently waiting for my second dose and will happily venture out of Hackney again for another trip on the number 30 bus. **”**

“ I WAS so impressed by the experience of getting my two doses of the vaccine, as early as 17 December and 7 January respectively (well done Hackney!), that I was moved to write to the NHS City and Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group to congratulate them and convey my gratitude and appreciation to everyone involved.

The first Pfizer jab was the most painless I've ever had and I had no problems with the second dose either. There were no side effects except for a slightly sore arm, which is normal for me. There was very little waiting. Everything was so smooth and efficient as well as relaxed and friendly that it could only be given top marks.

There is no adequate way to reward the scientists who created these vaccines for their amazing gift except by actually accepting it! I took the vaccine believing it's the least we can do in recognition of, and huge gratitude for, their dedication and monumental achievement. **”**

Make a difference and sign up to be a Hackney 'health community champion'

OVER 160 people across Hackney have signed up to help steer the borough through the coronavirus pandemic as 'community champions'. The Council is now on the look-out for more people to join and help keep the borough safe.

The champions are volunteers who receive

training on public health guidance and messaging, meaning they can provide trusted, accurate and up-to-date information on the latest Covid-19 rules and the vaccine rollout.

The people already involved as champions are proving invaluable to Hackney's roadmap out

of lockdown. From simply re-sharing a Council tweet on the vaccine, to sending a WhatsApp message to a parents' group on school testing, these acts are helping to keep cases low.

They ensure people have access to trusted health advice, raise awareness of the latest public health messaging, spread information on how vaccines work and turn people away from false information.



Sophie Ibos, pictured, from Age UK East London, said: "I decided to become a Covid champion to give me the tools to answer the questions that our older residents have about Covid-19 and the vaccine. "I have been able to access great training opportunities to support

me to facilitate these conversations. It's okay to have concerns, but it's important to have the right answers to the questions."

To find out more, and to sign up as a community champion, visit: www.vchackney.org/phcc; email: phcc@vchackney.org; or call: 07458 306214.

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RESIDENTS are being invited to register to vote by post in local and regional elections this May to avoid increased waiting times at polling stations operating under coronavirus restrictions.

Thousands of people have already registered to vote securely by post – with anyone wanting to do so required to register by 5pm on 20 April.

Elections are set to take place on 6 May for the Mayor of London and London Assembly, with Council by-elections in Stamford Hill West, Kings Park, Hoxton East & Shoreditch and Woodberry Down wards.

Polling stations will look different this year, with new safety rules and changes, and it may take longer than normal for residents to cast their vote.

Voters may have to wait in a socially distanced queue, as fewer people will be allowed inside. Face coverings and hand sanitisation will be mandatory, with booths regularly disinfected and clear acrylic screens installed. Voters will also be encouraged to bring their own pen or pencil.

It's easy to register to vote by post by downloading and returning the online application form, or returning the form sent to previous postal voters.

Applicants can choose whether to register to vote by post in just these



Beat the queues

Apply for a postal vote in Mayoral, London Assembly and Council by-elections

The easiest and quickest way to cast your vote this year is by post. It's simple, safe and secure to register

elections, or all elections.

Once registered, the Council is also encouraging people to ensure they post back their vote in good time, to avoid needing to take it to a polling station on Election Day.

Anyone who has tested positive for coronavirus or is self-isolating on 6 May will be able to apply for an

emergency proxy vote.

Tim Shields, Hackney Council Chief Executive and Electoral Registration Officer, said: "The easiest and quickest way to cast your vote this year is by post.

"It's simple, safe and secure to register, and thousands of people across Hackney have already

signed up.

"By registering to vote by post, you'll help keep polling stations running smoothly and minimise delays for people who want to vote in person."

The deadline for applications to register by post is 20 April at 5pm.

MORE INFO

To download a form, or for more information, visit: hackney.gov.uk/ways-to-vote; email: electoralservices@hackney.gov.uk or call: 020 8356 3232.

News in brief

LIFT partnership to promote fairer access to tech economy

AN INNOVATIVE £7.4 million collaboration to help ensure Hackney residents from all backgrounds benefit from the borough's thriving local technology, science and digital sectors has been launched.

LIFT (Leading Inclusive Futures through Technology) is a four-year-long project which will see Hackney, Islington, Camden and Tower Hamlets councils work alongside grass-roots entrepreneurship experts Capital Enterprise to address the stark under representation of some communities in these sectors. This includes women, those with disabilities, lone parents and people from black and ethnic minority backgrounds.

The project will offer programmes to give participants the skills and tools they need to succeed in the industry, start their own tech business, seek out employment and training opportunities from leading digital and tech firms, and secure new affordable workspace in tech hubs.

For more information, visit: liftfutures.london or email: lift.futures@islington.gov.uk



Extensive renovation of hostels to help single homeless people

THE Council is set to carry out extensive renovations of five buildings in Hackney in order to provide much-needed modern accommodation for homeless single people in the borough.

The work will see a rolling programme of refurbishment and reconfiguration of hostels in Finsbury Park, Seven Sisters Road, Green Lanes, Queens Drive, and Woodberry Grove, with the first rooms due to open this summer.

The majority of the work will create self-contained units, with en-suites and kitchenettes, and insulation improvements, and with a number of specially designed rooms for those with high needs.

The high-specification finish will include wifi, CCTV, 24-hour security and hostel managers on site, in line with all new Council hostels.

The hostels will be managed by the Smarts group, and will be run by the Council.

Abney Park revamp project gets underway

A £5 MILLION project to improve Abney Park, bring its chapel back into use, and build a new cafe and classroom at its main entrance is set to start at the end of this month.

The new buildings will all feature green roofs and walls, and

species-rich lawn and grassland meadow areas will be introduced. The improvement work will also see a new accessible entrance created on Stoke Newington Church Street.

To make way for the new cafe, classroom and accessible entrance, a

number of small trees must be removed at the entrances. The entrances may also need to be closed for a short period while this work takes place.

Work to construct the new buildings will then begin later this summer.

The National Lottery

Heritage Fund and The National Lottery Community Fund is funding £4.4 million towards the improvement works, with the Council contributing an additional £710,000. To find out more, visit: hackney.gov.uk/abney-park



Artists' impression of the new-look entrance to Abney Park

ART DIRECTOR
zola, year 13

SCREENWRITER
jordan, year 13

SOUND RECORDIST
zainab, year 13

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email: zelina@connecthackney.org.uk

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 recycle for London

 Hackney

A census has been taken in England every 10 years, with the exception of 1941 due to the Second World War

DID YOU KNOW?

Inspirational traders

Women making their mark in the borough's markets

AS PART of this year's International Women's Day celebrations, which took place on 8 March, the Council has recognised some of the women trading in Hackney's markets.

Women make up 33 per cent of business owners in the UK, but make up

more than 48 per cent of businesses in markets.

Hackney's markets play an important role in the borough – both economically and socially – as a place to trade, meet others and share a sense of community. Unfortunately, the markets have been closed to many traders for

the majority of the past year in order to comply with Covid-19 guidelines.

As the lockdown eases over the next few months it is more important than ever that market traders are supported.

Here are four inspirational women traders who share their

stories about what it's like to work in a Hackney market:

MORE INFO

For the latest information about Hackney's markets, visit: **@MarketsHackney** on Instagram and Twitter



If you've ever been to Hoxton Street on a weekday at lunchtime, no doubt you've seen Nese, owner of CING.

CING can usually be found with a long line of customers eager for a chicken or halloumi wrap or a box. She was 'inspired to share, impress and inspire others about what I know about cooking'. Nese says women looking to get their start in business should start as soon as possible; there is no need to wait for things to be perfect because you will learn and improve along the way.

PAULINA, a Ridley Road trader, has been a market trader for 20 years selling wigs and hair accessories.

She says that wanting to be her own boss was what inspired her to start her own business initially.

To this day, it is clear that Paulina still has a passion for market trading. She says that she loves it more than anything, because 'you meet different people and you gain more knowledge and experience being in a multicultural market'.

LAUREN, owner of Blue Hour London, has been a market trader for four years.

She would normally be selling her range of leather accessories at Broadway Market, but like many traders, has had to learn how to sell on online social media outlets.

Lauren's advice to women trying to start their own business is: 'Think big, keep the energy going, but remember to set small achievable goals, so you don't set yourself up to fail. Rome wasn't built in a day, but a tiny bit of it was'.

For VICKTESHA, founder of Vtessia, her business was created out of frustration with the lack of natural solutions to help encourage hair growth.

This has been a personal journey for Vicktesha, who struggled with postpartum alopecia in 2019. Creating her own business has allowed Vicktesha to help demonstrate her skills and share her story. As with all of the traders who have not been able to trade due to lockdown, she is eager to get back to the market.

Census 2021: Making Hackney count

THE once-in-a-decade Census has never been more important. The information collected will help the Council respond to, and recover from, the coronavirus pandemic.

With identities never before recognised now included in the Census, it will also help the Council understand who lives in the borough, their backgrounds and their lives – all to make sure it can make Hackney a fairer place to live.

Hackney Council has always been committed to celebrating its diversity and catering for individual communities. But without accurate information of how diverse the borough is, it cannot support those often underrepresented groups to be better heard and appropriately catered for.

The results of the Census will also help us navigate the borough's exit from the EU and shape how the Government funds the Council, and the public services residents will rely on for years to come.

For the first time, LGBT+ residents will have the option to be recorded on the Census. There will be voluntary questions on gender identity and sexual orientation for over 16s, including the ability to request and submit a confidential submission. There are currently no figures held by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on transgender residents and this Census provides an opportunity to ensure they too are counted.

At the last Census, 11.4 per cent of Hackney's population were black African and 7.8 per cent were black Caribbean, making up the second and third highest percentages after those who classed themselves as white. Hackney is also home to the largest Charedi Jewish community outside New York.

This Census also represents a first for many of Hackney's other smaller communities, which contribute to how multicultural the borough is. Now, Kurdish, Roma, Alevi, South American, Israeli and Somali communities can be formally counted alongside Bangladeshi, Asian, Chinese, Irish, Pakistani, Arab and Vietnamese residents. This year's Census allows residents to type in their country of origin and state their identity on their own terms. Thanks to a campaign led by the Royal British Legion, those who served in the Armed Forces will also be counted.

This year, instead of equating disability with illness, the Census reframes the question, asking how those affected carry out day-to-day activities. This will help the Council gain a better understanding of what impact Covid-19, post-Covid-19 syndrome and other long-term conditions are having on the lives of Hackney people.

By now, all residents should have received their letter from the ONS to remind them that Census Day is 21 March. Filling out the census is a legal requirement and residents could face a fine of up to £1,000 if they do not complete it.

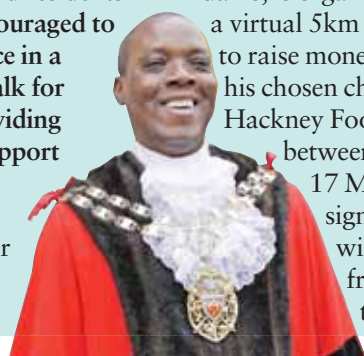
If you have not yet filled out the Census, lost your form or need help, visit: **census.gov.uk**; email: **census.customerservices@ons.gov.uk**; or call: **01329 444 972**.

More information on Hackney's population figures, as provided by the ONS, can be found at: **hackney.gov.uk/population**

Join the Speaker's online charity 5km walk

FAMILIES and residents are being encouraged to go the distance in a sponsored walk for a charity providing 'incredible support for people in crisis'.

The Speaker of Hackney, Cllr Kam



Adams, is organising a virtual 5km walk to raise money for his chosen charity, Hackney Foodbank, between 10 and 17 May. Those signing up will receive a free t-shirt to walk in.

Participants, taking part as separate households rather than together due to lockdown restrictions, will walk in an area of Hackney of their choice and are asked to share images using the social media hashtag **#HackneyFoodbank5k**.

People are encouraged to

collect money for Hackney Foodbank in the lead up to, and after, the event.

To sign up to the virtual 5km walk, email: **speaker@hackney.gov.uk** with details of how many people are taking part.

To start raising money for the event, visit: **uk.gofundme.com**



HDS13781



Tell us about your experience accessing Council services

Hackney Council would like to hear the views of all residents to understand how they access Council services when they have a query. We want to understand how and why residents access our services and what residents expect.

Results from the survey will support the information we have already collected from residents who we are working with to shape and improve the experience of all residents who contact the Council.

This short survey, running until **Sunday 18 April** can be accessed online now by visiting:
 consultation.hackney.gov.uk and searching 'customer services'.

 To take part over the phone or request a paper copy you can call: **020 8356 3000**
 You can also email info@hackney.gov.uk for more information.

 consultation.hackney.gov.uk

have  say

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A NEW SOCIAL ENTERPRISE BUT NEED FUNDING TO SET UP?

Applications are open for Investec Beyond Business social enterprise start-up funding

This Spring, as we emerge with trepidation from the worst of the pandemic, we need fresh new business ideas to make the new normal anything but ordinary.

That's why Investec Beyond Business is seeking the best social enterprises delivering hope as we start to look forward again.

You could be already trading (since July 2020), or just at the idea stage – as long as you have a clear social purpose we want to hear from you.

If selected, you will receive funding of up to £20,000, plus expert mentoring and support to grow and flourish.



WHAT IS THE INVESTEC BEYOND BUSINESS PROGRAMME?

Investec Beyond Business is a successful support scheme that has helped launch over 50 social businesses in the East End. To successful applicants it provides:

- Start-up funding,
- Strategic and business planning guidance, and
- Practical business support including training and mentoring.

FIND OUT MORE

- To find out more about eligibility for start-up funding of up to £20,000 visit: www.bbbc.org/services/enterprise-support/
- The closing date for Submission of Expressions of Interest is: **7 May 2021 at 5pm**
- For more information about the programme please contact Kim Hayman:
Email: kim.hayman@bbbc.org.uk Call: **07706 687671**



For more information on the Council's own house-building programme, visit:
hackney.gov.uk/building

MORE
INFO

News in brief

Landlords fined for failing to provide safe living conditions

ROGUE landlords who illegally let a Clapton property without providing proper washing facilities or fire safety requirements have been fined after a Council prosecution. Landlords Ella Louise Hill and Tyrone Bhahari Jnr were fined more than £22,000 after letting out the property on Durrington Road, E5, without following proper safety and hygiene standards, or applying for the required licence. Thames Magistrates Court heard on 8 February that the joint owners failed to maintain fire safety doors and provide working smoke alarms.

They also heard that the property's bathroom had damage to the washing facilities and faults with the water supply. Council enforcement officers took legal action against the landlords to protect the tenants.

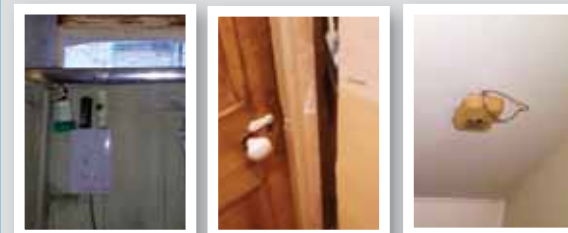
Ella Louise Hill and Tyrone Bhahari Jnr were charged with failure to licence a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) and at least five breaches of HMO management regulations. The landlords failed to attend court and the case was found proven in their absence.

Cllr Sem Moema, Mayoral Adviser for Private Renting and Housing Affordability, said: "The current lockdown measures have highlighted just how important a good, secure and safe place to live is. This is why it's more important than ever that we're taking action against landlords who take advantage of Hackney's housing crisis and subject their tenants to illegal and dangerous living conditions."

"Nobody should have to live like this – let alone private tenants paying the rocketing rents that are now the norm in Hackney."

As part of its #BetterRenting campaign the Council's property licensing measures require landlords to meet high standards or face financial penalty notice of up to £30,000 per offence or an unlimited fine from the court.

Find out more at: www.hackney.gov.uk/better-renting; and: www.hackney.gov.uk/property-licensing



New generation of social housing

Images: Lynch Architects

Lynch Architects' proposals for the Fairbank estate in Hoxton, where 73 new homes will replace a concrete car park and under-used land

AN empty car park on a Hoxton estate is set to make way for genuinely affordable new homes for local people.

The 73 new homes – more than half for social rent and shared ownership – will replace a concrete car park and underused land with three new buildings on the Fairbank estate.

Council tenants already living at Fairbank and nearby, whose current homes don't meet their needs, will get first priority for the 28 social rent homes, following two years of close engagement between the Council, the

“The coronavirus crisis has shown just how important a safe, secure and genuinely affordable home is”

local community and Lynch Architects to develop the plans.

A further nine shared ownership homes will be prioritised for local families living or working in Hackney and unable to get on the housing ladder.

The remaining outright sale homes will help pay for the development in the absence of Government funding. These will be

marketed directly by the Council through its in-house sales team, Hackney Sales.

The approved plans also include a transformation of shared spaces on the estate to benefit both new and existing residents. This will see filling in the sunken area around Thaxted Court tower block to provide new planting, landscaping and play facilities.

Cllr Rebecca Rennison,

Cabinet Member for Finance, Housing Needs and Supply, until 1 March, said: "The coronavirus crisis has shown just how important a safe, secure and genuinely affordable home is."

"As we work to rebuild a better Hackney out of the pandemic I'm proud that Hackney is building the new generation of social housing that our borough desperately needs."

MORE INFO

For more info on the Council's in-house sales team, visit:
hackneysales.org

Plans to bring back 25 lost 'Right to Buy' Council homes approved

TWENTY-FIVE former Council homes lost to the Government's Right to

Buy policy will be brought back for use by families on Hackney's housing waiting list after a £10million investment was given the go ahead.

The purchase will see the

properties let out at social rents, complementing the Council's own house-building initiative to help tackle the borough's housing shortage and provide genuinely affordable homes.

The homes are some of the thousands of Council properties lost in Hackney

alone through Right to Buy – a Government scheme introduced in 1980 to give Council tenants the chance to purchase their home at below market rates – with an average of 50 Council homes still sold in Hackney each year at discounts of up to £112,300.

Part of the income from homes sold under Right to Buy is used to help fund the hundreds of new Council homes in the Council's in-house, not-for-profit house-building programme.

Buying back former Council homes to use as social housing is another

way of supporting some of the families on the Council's housing register.

Government restrictions on how the Council spends Right to Buy receipts mean this money must be spent within three years of a sale and can only pay for 30 per cent of a replacement home.



feature

A NEW square at the entrance to Britannia Leisure Centre is to be named BRAFA Square after the British Reggae Artists Famine Appeal (BRAFA), which became Hackney's answer to Live Aid in 1985.

When Band Aid was set up in response to the Ethiopian famine in 1984, Hackney resident and lead singer of The Blackstones, Leon Leiffer, was frustrated by the lack of African and Caribbean artists involved.

So Leon formed BRAFA with fellow musicians Courtney Carr, Ras Elroy Bailey, Tony Douglas, Raymond Dangarembizi, Jah Bunny, Ken Kendricks and Gene Rondo.

Some 200 reggae artists and members of the public answered a call from the BBC to help BRAFA record an alternative charity single 'Let's Make Africa Green Again', which was produced at Hive Studios in Stoke Newington.

The song was released by Island Records and performed at an open air concert in Shoreditch Park the following year, in 1985, raising thousands of pounds for Save the Children Ethiopian famine appeal.

BRAFA's legacy was rediscovered in 2019 during the Shoreditch Park improvement project, when historical research was conducted to find a name for the new square, and a local resident recalled the story. After making the final naming shortlist overseen by the Council, the public voted BRAFA as their favourite.

BRAFA founder, Leon Leiffer, said: "As a young boy leaving the Caribbean and coming to England I would never envision something like this.

"Now, 35 years later, the name BRAFA is coming back alive and will be there for the rest of time, in history, in Hackney.

"It's a mega honour for myself, the people who coordinated this and for

each and every musician and singer that took part for the great reason of helping the famine in Ethiopia.

"I'm proud that Hackney has taken it upon themselves to recognise this name is worthy of making history."

Gene Rondo's daughter, Michelle Lara, who remembers the BRAFA

meetings taking place at her childhood home in Hyde Road – next to the site of the forthcoming square – said:

"Who would've thought that all the work our dad and the team put in would be recognised so many years later in this way? Talented black musicians putting their heads together with

Now, 35 years later, the name BRAFA is coming back alive and will be there for the rest of time, in history, in Hackney

BRAFA Square

In 1985, reggae artists united in Hackney for a charity single. Now a new square will be named in their honour



pure hearts to help the community, and now the community has helped them fulfil their objective and what they deserve.

"By naming a square after them allows their hard work – and their passion – to be seen by their children, and their children's children."

Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville, added: "By uncovering and celebrating the story of BRAFA, we're demonstrating yet another valuable contribution from Hackney's African and Caribbean community.

"I look forward to

opening the square in summer and hope to hear many more memories of this incredible event."

BRAFA Square will officially open this summer.

MORE INFO

The Hackney Heritage team would like to hear from anyone who has memories of the Shoreditch Park event, or the recording of the BRAFA single, 'Let's Make Africa Green Again'. Get in touch by emailing: archives@hackney.gov.uk

Young people aged 16 to 25 are being invited to have their say on Hackney's Review, Rename, Reclaim project at an online event on 25 March, from 5.30-6.30pm. Visit: bit.ly/CRG_YH

GET INVOLVED

TYSSEN Primary School in Cazenove, N16, is changing its name – which is linked to a historical slave owner – in order to create a 'stepping board for change'.

Work is now underway to rebrand the school Oldhill Community School and Children's Centre and introduce a new logo designed by its Year 6 pupils and the Council's design team.

The school, which was named after plantation owner Francis Tyssen, launched a consultation with parents and children after the Council's Review, Rename Reclaim team alerted headteacher Jackie Benjamin to the potentially contentious name.

A majority of the school community was in favour of removing the name.

Jackie said: "The consultation boosted the energies of everybody to get this done and really make it like a stepping board for change.

"And when I say that, I'm talking about changing the whole ethos of the school and making it even more community-driven."

The school was given a £15,000 grant by the Council to fund updates of the new name, including notices, signs and new branded uniforms.

The Council also led interactive design workshops with the children to help land a new logo. After brainstorming their ideas, designer Nancy Sheridan presented the final motif and revealed how their ideas had transformed into their new look, which will take effect from September.

Kyron Marragh, 10, said: "I was shocked because the



Goodbye Tyssen, hello Oldhill Community School

Change for the better

Photos: Sean Pollock



logo was so good! It was so clean and fresh."

Jahniya Shaw, also 10, believed it was important to change the name because 'nobody wants to repeat history'.

The school is now

fundraising for additional money to support parents to cover costs of new uniforms, ready for the change in September.

Donate now at: gofundme.com/tyssen-school-is-its-changing-name

Dig the garden? Help rename it!

THERE's still time to cast your vote for a new name for the green space formerly known as Cassland Road Gardens. The shortlist is: Celestine, Crowley, Owuasu, or Straker gardens. Each of the four names reflect a hidden story of an influential individual in the multicultural history of Hackney. For more information on the histories behind the names, or to cast your vote, visit: bit.ly/CGNHNews



Hackney's anti-racism plan: Same journey, new map

Cllr Carole Williams

Cabinet Member for Employment, Skills, Equalities and Human Resources



THIS spring Hackney Council is set to launch its anti-racism plan. It will underpin everything we do in Hackney in our commitment to being an anti-racist borough. It will see us lead from the inside out by investigating how inclusive we are within the Council, and how we tackle all forms of racism in our community.

Now is not the time for more reviews. Now is a time for action and this plan will be our guide. By design, our journey will be collaborative and we'll work with communities, individuals and organisations who understand the complexities of racism and the many barriers to equality.

And we are already on our way. In July 2020 we passed our Black Lives Matter motion that commits us to being an anti-racist organisation – one that doesn't just tackle inequality, but actively fights racism. We now face the journey of what more we can do and our new anti-racism plan gives us a map.

The plan covers five main areas: institutional change, community engagement, culture and leadership, accountability and influence. Within these pillars are principles of community collaboration, engagement and empowerment with a cross-generational and intersectional approach.

In July 2020, we refreshed the Council's Corporate Plan to ensure equality and fairness is central to everything we do and this year, we have included a clear definition between structural and systemic racism. Defining the two helps us appreciate that not all groups can be treated the same. Some will need more support or focus than others due to the hierarchical nature of society which places certain groups above others.

Our Review, Rename, Reclaim project has seen us rethink why the names of those involved in the trade of enslaved Africans remain in our public places.

Our new Diverse Curriculum: The Black Contribution – now adopted by over 600 schools worldwide – will be built upon as we confront the lack of diverse education in our schools and champion black history as British history.

Our 'improving outcomes for young black men' programme will see its three-year vision take us into 2022, and we'll continue to campaign for policing by consent and hold the police responsible for their actions. We are the first local authority to pass a comprehensive Windrush motion which commits us to fight for the justice of those affected by the Windrush scandal. We will also continue to celebrate the contributions of the Windrush generation as we build on the award-winning work of our Windrush Generations Festival. The centrepiece for these celebrations will be the arrival of our Windrush artworks which will be the UK's first public, permanent sculptures to honour the Windrush legacy.

Hackney's anti-racism plan will reinvigorate our former achievements and help us create new ones. We know this journey will encounter its diversions – especially as we face the ambiguity of a post-pandemic world and how it has disproportionately affected our minority communities.

As societal issues are brought to sharper focus thanks to the Black Lives Matter movement, we will need to monitor where those conversations go. This is why engagements with our community will not only be welcome, but necessary so we can lead the way to an anti-racist Hackney.



Headteacher Jackie Benjamin and pupils from Oldhill Community School gave the thumbs up to the new look created by Hackney designer Nancy Sheridan

greenmatters

RESIDENTS are being encouraged to continue to have their say on Hackney's new low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs), School Streets and cycle lanes, as the Council begins a new push to ensure the views of everyone in the borough are heard.

Over 12,000 responses have been received so far on schemes introduced under the Council's plans to rebuild a greener Hackney in the wake of the pandemic.

However, with new LTNs covering approximately 17 per cent of Hackney's population – approximately 50,000 people – and its new School Streets supporting over 14,000 children across 41 schools to walk and cycle to school, the Council wants to make sure everyone has the chance to have their say.

It is therefore extending the engagement period for its 'rebuilding a greener Hackney' programme



Have your say on plans to rebuild the borough in the aftermath of the pandemic

A greener Hackney

Cllr Mete Coban with schoolchildren outside Randall Cremer School Street, one of the measures introduced to rebuild a greener borough

Photo: Gary Manhine

so residents can see how schemes operate as the capital emerges from lockdown. The Council has sent out a leaflet to all properties in the borough to encourage residents to respond.

In addition to the engagement exercise, the Council is set to ask

an independent polling company to speak to residents across the borough to ensure that a representative sample of residents' views are heard.

It is also monitoring traffic levels in the borough – through analysis of Transport for London traffic monitors,

spot-monitoring of over 200 sites during one week periods in November and spring, and by introducing its own network of fixed, real-time monitoring sites.

This data will then feed into an air quality model to show the effect of LTNs on air pollution and highlight any areas where pollution

could increase, so the Council can take further action to mitigate this.

In response to comments from residents, the Council has already made tweaks to schemes to ensure they work better, such as moving the filter on Nile Street in Hoxton and removing a series of

banned turns near the London Fields LTN.

Last year's trial LTNs – aimed at supporting all residents to walk, shop and cycle locally – build on Hackney's history of traffic calming measures.

Its first LTN was introduced in De Beauvoir in 1974 and, before last year's introduction of LTNs, there were already over 120 traffic filters across the borough.

However, in the past seven years, the miles driven on Hackney's roads has increased by 40 million, nearly all of which – according to London-wide Department for Transport statistics – has ended up on neighbourhood streets that are unable to cope with additional volumes of traffic.

Hackney Council's own analysis of data shows that about 40 per cent of traffic in the borough passes through without stopping, causing air pollution and congestion without providing any economic benefit to the borough.

LTNs are aimed at stopping this rise in traffic,

Your questions answered: Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs)

How are you listening to residents' views?

WE ARE encouraging all residents to have their say on these measures online or by writing to us at: 'Freepost Streetscene'. We are listening to people's views, and have made tweaks in response to comments to ensure schemes work better, such as moving the filter on Nile St in Hoxton and removing a series of banned turns near the London Fields LTN. We will consider and analyse all comments alongside traffic monitoring before making decisions on whether or not to make schemes permanent.

How do these measures affect the emergency services?

WE ALWAYS consult with the emergency services before implementing changes like this so we don't make their work harder. The majority of our traffic filters are camera-enforced and don't use bollards, so the emergency services – including Hatzola – can pass through when on emergency calls.



What is the effect on main road traffic?

WE ARE monitoring the effect of LTNs on main road traffic. Our initial analysis – news.hackney.gov.uk/ltm-traffic-data – of five main roads showed no significant impact on main road traffic, but we will continue to look at and publish data. Unfortunately, the implementation of new LTNs coincided with significant roadworks on Hackney Road, Dalston Junction, Balls Pond Road, Upper Clapton Road/ Northwold Road and Old St roundabout. These affected traffic patterns in the borough and caused delays that were not related to LTNs.

Do LTNs make the lives of older and disabled residents harder?

NO. LTNS will not make their lives harder. LTNs maintain motor vehicle access to people's homes. They can also create a safer, more pleasant environment for those with mobility impairments because of lower traffic levels and fewer cars making shortcuts. People with visual impairments can benefit from reduced traffic and road danger, and the reduction in noise can help in navigating their local area. We are looking in detail at residents' comments in order to understand the impact of the measures on older and disabled residents and determine how we can address any issues.

Do these changes disadvantage poorer residents?

ABOUT four in 10 residents in our new LTNs live in social housing, benefitting from quieter neighbourhoods, cleaner air and safer conditions for walking and cycling. Residents with a lower income are less likely to own a car and more likely to walk or use public transport, which is supported by LTNs.



What effect do LTNs have on car journey times?

SOME journeys by car may take longer, but this is often negligible and can encourage more of us to make healthier local journeys. We know that not everyone can make this switch, which is why all addresses in LTNs can still be accessed by car. We are monitoring traffic levels, which we will take into account deciding on whether or not to make measures permanent.



and ensuring that Hackney residents have clean and pleasant neighbourhoods.

Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville, said: “Our trial LTNs and School Streets have positively transformed large parts of the borough – creating quieter, greener streets for everyone and encouraging people to walk, shop and cycle locally during the pandemic and beyond.

“We introduced these measures to support people as they spend more time in their local area during the pandemic, but also to protect them from rises in traffic levels in London shown in Department for Transport statistics.

“I know that not all of our residents agree on their introduction, which is why we want to make sure all of Hackney’s diverse residents have their say.

“We’ll then look in detail at what people have told us, alongside traffic monitoring that shows the benefits and challenges of LTNs and other measures, to see what further work we can do to respond to concerns and help mitigate some of the difficulties some people are reporting before making a decision on whether or not to make trial measures permanent.”

Cllr Mete Coban, Cabinet Member for Energy, Waste, Transport and Public Realm, added: “We’re passionate about rebuilding a greener



LTNs, such as the one in Hoxton above, have introduced traffic calming measures, encouraging residents to walk, shop and cycle locally. Cllr Coban stands outside Randall Cremer School Street

“Our trial LTNs and School Streets have positively transformed large parts of the borough”

Hackney for all of our residents and businesses and making sure that journeys on foot, by bike or by public transport are as safe and clean as possible. This is why we’ve introduced new low traffic neighbourhoods and School Streets across the borough.

“However, we also know that not everyone can make that switch, which is why

it’s so important that we have everyone’s feedback and can work together to help mitigate any negative impacts of these changes.

“I want people to know that I’ll work with them on this – as we create a cleaner, greener borough for everyone.”

MORE INFO

For more information, and to have your say on the Council’s ‘rebuilding a greener Hackney’ programme, visit: rebuildingagreenerhackney.commonplace.is; or write to ‘Freepost Streetscene’

News in brief

New solar panels installed at London Fields Lido

NEW solar panels have been installed at London Fields Lido to help reduce the leisure facility’s carbon emissions. Hackney Light and Power – the Council-owned renewable energy services company – completed their installation on 15 March.

All energy generated from the panels will be used onsite. This follows the introduction of solar panels at West Reservoir Centre last year.

The panels form part of the Council’s commitment to achieving net zero carbon emissions across all its functions by 2040, and a 45 per cent reduction on 2010 levels by 2030.

Hackney Light and Power’s solar scheme is now being rolled out to a further nine Council-owned buildings to generate more clean energy.

The Council is also exploring the potential to install solar panels on Council homes and estates to generate clean energy.

Cllr Mete Coban said: “London Fields Lido is a much-loved local facility that will now be powered in part by its own renewable electricity, as part of our commitment to reducing carbon emissions and tackling the climate emergency.

“I was delighted to join ward councillors to launch the new panels, and look forward to opening more of Hackney Light and Power’s groundbreaking new solar schemes in the coming months.”



Deputy Mayor Anntoinette Bramble with Cllr Coban standing by London Fields Lido’s new solar panels



Waste composition analysis showed that over half of waste thrown away in Hackney is actually recyclable

Boosting recycling rates: fortnightly waste collections started

WASTE collections at some properties in Hackney have now switched to every two weeks to encourage people to recycle more.

New wheelie bins have been delivered to over 40,000 properties as part of the changes, which not only limit the waste residents throw away, but also help to improve hygiene and prevent vermin from being able to rip open bin bags.

The change affects most street-level properties – generally houses, or houses that have been converted into flats and currently have green sack recycling services. Food waste and recycling collections remain weekly under the changes to encourage residents to recycle as much as possible.

The changes will not affect estates or blocks of flats, which keep weekly

waste collections.

Currently, around half of the waste that is thrown away in Hackney could be recycled. It is hoped that the switch to fortnightly collections will increase recycling rates and reduce the amount of waste sent for incineration by 4,500 tonnes each year – the equivalent of 450 bin lorry loads of waste – and help tackle the climate

emergency as fewer overall waste collections occur.

Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville, said: “Hackney residents have made incredible progress in increasing the amount they recycle. Recycling rates have gone up from one per cent in 1998 to around 28 per cent today. These changes will encourage residents to recycle even more, which will help us

reduce the amount of waste we send to be incinerated.”

For more information – including finding out your new collection week, ordering recycling products, and requesting a collection of your old bin – visit: hackney.gov.uk/waste-changes

Order a fox-proof food waste bin at: hackney.gov.uk/order-recycling-products



Kickstart your career in Hackney

Kickstart is helping to put 16 to 24 year-olds on the first rung of their career ladder, with hundreds of placements on offer in Hackney

HUNDREDS of young people hit hard economically by the pandemic are set to be offered work placements over the coming months after Hackney Council was approved by the Government to act as a 'gateway' organisation for the Kickstart scheme.

Kickstart is helping to put 16 to 24 year-olds on the first rung of their career ladder, with hundreds of placements on offer in Hackney industries including technology, fashion and the green economy. There will be 47 applicants employed by the Council directly.

Funding will cover the relevant national minimum

“This Kickstart scheme will provide opportunities for young people”

wage for 25 hours a week over six months, with the Council asking employers to top up wages to a minimum of £8.72 per hour.

Cllr Carole Williams, Cabinet Member for Employment, Skills and Human Resources, said: “The impact of the coronavirus pandemic has been hard on young people in Hackney, leaving many anxious about what to do next in terms of education and employment.

“As a Council it is crucial that we harness the extraordinary talent of our young people in this borough to ensure that a generation isn't left behind by these economically challenging times.

“This Kickstart scheme will provide opportunities for young people to develop in a working environment tailored to their interests and career aspirations.”

The Council's Inclusive Economy strategy

focuses on the creation of meaningful, quality paid employment opportunities for Hackney residents and school leavers, ensuring that everyone can benefit from Hackney's economic growth.

The Kickstart scheme offers six-month work placements for 16 to 24 year-olds who are currently out of work. To join this scheme you must be on Universal Credit or be willing to apply for Universal Credit.

MORE INFO

To express your interest, visit: bit.ly/hackney-kickstart

News in brief

Creative career hub for young people set to open next month

A NEW hub offering career programmes for local young people is set to open at Hackney Bridge, in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, next month.

The Good Growth Hub will offer young people London Living Wage-paid internships, support for freelancers, apprenticeships, careers advice and coaching. It will connect businesses with local talent through a wide range of employment, skills and enterprise activities. It will also focus on developing talent for the growing creative, cultural and technology sectors on and around the park. Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville, said: “Creating more access to jobs, training and skills in Hackney Wick is a priority for Hackney and vital for our residents. As we work to rebuild a fairer more inclusive economy in Hackney, we must respond to this challenge and ensure that local people have the tools and skills they need to realise their potential and enjoy the opportunities available in this growing part of our borough.”

London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) has appointed A New Direction to run the Good Growth Hub. Lyn Garner, Chief Executive, LLDC, said: “There is a huge pool of local talent that the Good Growth Hub will tap into to help local businesses to thrive.”

Steve Moffitt, Chief Executive, A New Direction, added: “It's not always a clear career path into the creative, cultural and tech sector and progress often relies on connections and chance. With the Good Growth Hub, we want to create a better and fairer way to connect east London talent with local businesses.”

For more information, visit: createjobslondon.org



Interested in politics? Apply to become a member of Hackney Youth Parliament



YOUNG people interested in politics and making a difference to their community are being encouraged to apply to become a member of Hackney Youth Parliament (HYP), which is seeking new recruits.

The newly structured HYP will have six elected

young leaders collaborating with 60 young people. They will be given a budget to work with, and will help decide how the services for young people are delivered.

Skye Fitzgerald Mcshane, UK Youth Parliament member and HYP member 2016-18, said: “HYP has been an

invaluable experience for me. I've gained confidence and improved my public speaking. Going on residential and campaigning for issues we are passionate about have all been amazing.”

Beverley Tetteh, Hackney Young Speaker and HYP member 2018-2019,

added: “I can truly say that HYP has exceeded my expectations. This journey is definitely for those ready to take on new responsibilities.”

To become an elected cabinet member, or wider member, you have to be a young person who is a resident or attends a school

in Hackney, aged between 14 and 19 years-old (up to 25 with SEND).

If elected your term in office would end in October 2023. On average you will need to commit to three hours per week.

For more info, or to sign up, visit: younghackney.org/get-involved

THIS
PAGE

This page was compiled with the help
of Hackney Education & local schools

education

P RIMARY schools in the borough recorded 94 per cent attendance in their first week back from lockdown, with schools putting extensive measures in place to keep students safe.

Secondary schools have been phasing their return, but also reported high attendance, with over 10,000 pupils attending school in the first week back, from 8 March.

Students in secondary schools are being expected to take regular Covid tests as part of new Government measures to ensure pupils safely return.

Students have been tested initially in schools before moving on to home tests every three to five days.

All school and nursery staff in the borough will be tested twice a week using home testing kits.

As before, to ensure all children can continue learning and to protect others from coronavirus, households must self-isolate for 10 days if their child receives a positive test result.

While Hackney now has among the lowest coronavirus rates in the capital, additional Covid-secure measures – such as mask-wearing in corridors and classrooms for secondary school students and primary and secondary staff – are also in place, unless children are exempt.

These are in addition to the safety measures that were in place during the autumn term, which

includes comprehensive Covid-secure risk assessments to ensure that students can return safely to school.

Schools will return to the full curriculum once students are back on site.

In addition, schools are planning how best to use the catch up funding and national tutoring funding to support students who need particular help over time.

Arrangements to replace the summer examinations for older students were announced by the Government last month, which will see teacher assessments replace exams.

Schools will be putting in place robust procedures to fairly assess their pupils.

Back to school

Parents and students urged to stick to the measures that keep them safe



Primary and secondary schools have put extensive measures into place as pupils return from lockdown

“We’re working closely with all schools and I urge parents and students to follow the guidance”

Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, Deputy Mayor of Hackney, said: “I’m really proud that so many children and young people have been back at school during their phased return in the first week, which is a testament to the safety measures that schools have put in place.

“It’s vital that students complete their regular testing and isolate with their household if they receive a positive result. This is so we can keep as many students

at school as possible so they’re able to see friends and carry on learning.

“We’re working closely with all schools across the borough and I’d urge parents and students to follow the guidance given to you by your school.”

MORE INFO

For more information on the return to school, visit: education.hackney.gov.uk

News in brief

Nominate your school star to thank them for all their efforts

RESIDENTS are being reminded that nominations for the Hackney School Stars are now open. If you know an inspirational teacher, a brilliant school cook, a caring caretaker or an amazing teaching assistant, now is your chance to thank them publicly.

Every year Hackney Council celebrates school staff across the borough – but this year it has never been more important. It was a difficult 2020 for everyone, but Hackney’s schools’ staff have gone the extra mile to adapt to delivering online education.

They have also ensured the children of key workers, some children with special educational needs and disability (SEND) and those who are vulnerable are safe in school. If you are a pupil, parent, guardian or school governor, and would like to say thank you, now is your chance. Staff will be honoured with a ceremony in the spring.

For more information, or to nominate someone, visit: hackney.gov.uk/hackney-schools-stars



Hackney School Stars Awards celebrate the people in the borough who go the extra mile for their school

Council teams up with young people to create a toolkit for health campaigns

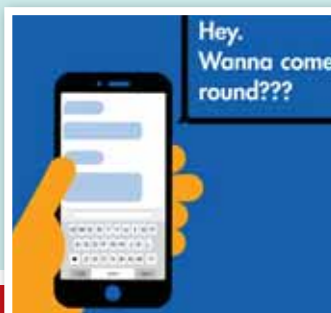
YOUNG people from across London have spent months working with Hackney Council to co-create a guide to public health campaigns for a younger audience.

The Young People’s Engagement Toolkit was developed with a group

of 15 to 25 year-olds and features insight about social media, branding, the use of influencers and examples of artwork and messaging.

As well as outlining clear methods to engage with younger audiences, the toolkit features direct

quotes from young people outlining their feelings



about the pandemic.

The Young People’s Engagement Toolkit was developed as part of the borough’s collaborative ‘Keep London Safe’ campaign and has now been distributed to all boroughs in London.

Cllr Chris Kennedy,

Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care and Leisure, said: “Young people have had to sacrifice a lot over the course of this pandemic and it is really important we appreciate that, whilst acknowledging the part they will play in overcoming it.”

“The toolkit not only captures the honest perspectives of young people but has also given us the tools to better communicate the key health messages.”

Watch the toolkit animation: bit.ly/YouTube_toolkit



**4 COVID-19
vaccination
centres opened**



**3 million items
of PPE issued to
staff and external
providers***



**20,000
emergency food
parcels delivered**



**£125,000 in rent
relief for voluntary
and community
organisations**



**1,000
volunteers
deployed**

Responding to the pandemic, rebuilding a better Hackney

IT HAS been one year since Hackney – and the rest of England – first entered lockdown on 23 March 2020 due to the global coronavirus pandemic.

Over the past year there have been three periods of national restrictions, as well as the introduction of different levels of tiers. Across the UK there have tragically been over 120,000 deaths, with over 480 in Hackney.

The past 12 months have also seen coronavirus vaccines developed from scratch, with 25 million people in the UK having now received a first dose, including over 52,000 people in Hackney.

This period has also shone light on some of the amazing individuals, volunteers and organisations in the borough who have pulled together to support each other through these difficult times.

Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville, said: “It has been a long, painful year for our borough. Many families have lost someone they love, others have lost work or faced unprecedented financial challenges, and all of us have struggled through staying at home.

“But throughout the darkness, the Hackney spirit shown by our key workers, volunteers and ordinary people has shone brightly – with people putting others before themselves, helping to keep our communities safe and sacrificing their day-to-day lives to protect those most vulnerable.

“On behalf of everyone in our borough, thank you for everything you have done to keep Hackney safe.”

HACKNEY Council has worked hard to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic and ensure that residents and businesses that need support get it.

The Council has spent nearly

£220million helping residents and businesses throughout the pandemic so far.

This includes nearly £160million in additional support to local businesses and

£21million to fund a range of additional support for residents.

This includes providing thousands of laptops to schoolchildren learning at home, free school meals,

PPE, support and emergency accommodation for homeless residents and opening seven Covid testing hubs and supporting the set-up of four vaccination centres.



Film to mark anniversary of the pandemic

THE outpouring of community activity and volunteering this past year has been astonishing and illustrates what makes Hackney such a special place.

The Council has created a film, called ‘One Year On’ to thank everyone who has been part of the effort.

Featuring throwbacks to the work of Hackney’s key workers,

parks team, food bank volunteers, teachers, community groups and more, ‘One Year On’ will give residents a moment to



reflect on the past year. Watch ‘One Year On’ from 23 March on **Hackney Council’s YouTube page** and **lovehackney.uk**

A Hackney Council film to mark the one year anniversary of the beginning of lockdown, 'One Year On', is set to be released on 23 March

WATCH IT!

Life Under Lockdown

FROM watercolour paintings, sun-drenched photography, clay pots to cauliflower sculptures,

Life Under Lockdown gave residents an insight into the creativity of Hackney communities. Launched

almost one year ago, the project saw submissions flood in to be shared on the newly-launched Love Hackney website. A book of some of the submissions is set to be published in July,

and will form part of how the Council looks back at 2020 and the resilience and creativity of those who call Hackney home. Visit: www.lovehackney.uk/life-under-lockdown



Contributors to the Life Under Lockdown project included: Paula Crane; Reg Miah; Sara Rance; Lorenzo; Anna Strickland; Wayne Snooze; Oma Okolo; and Jane Ross

Volunteers and VCS organisations

VOLUNTARY and community sector organisations, mutual aid groups and volunteers have offered a lifeline to their communities over the past year and have made a huge difference to the lives of residents in need.

Since the start of the pandemic, over 1,000 volunteers have been deployed by Volunteer Centre Hackney to areas where they're most needed. These volunteers have been carrying out a range of essential tasks for residents who are shielding, or otherwise unable to leave the house, such as shopping for groceries and collecting medications, alongside providing companionship for vulnerable residents at this isolating time.

Hackney's established voluntary and community sector and local mutual aid groups have also been working tirelessly over the past year to respond to the needs of their communities.

If you know someone who lives, works or volunteers in Hackney, and who has made a positive difference to people's lives over the past year, the Council wants to hear from you.

Nominations are now open for the sixth annual 'I Love Hackney Mayor's Civic Awards', which will focus on recognising the unsung heroes who have been working selflessly and tirelessly throughout the pandemic to support those in need.

To nominate someone, visit: bit.ly/hackney_heroes; or call: **020 8356 8444**.

Hackney has sadly lost over the last year.

Residents can fill in the Council's Book of Condolences at: bit.ly/hackney_book_of_condolences



7 Covid-19 testing centres opened



5,000 laptops sent to students who need them



40 School Streets, helping **14,500** children walk and cycle to school



2,000 hot meals a week delivered



£175 million in grants and reliefs for businesses

Council launches Book of Condolences

AN ONLINE Book of Condolences has been launched by the Council to remember family, friends and colleagues lost to the coronavirus crisis.

Hackney has, like many communities across the country, experienced a high number of deaths from the coronavirus pandemic, each one a tragic loss which

must be remembered. Residents are being offered the chance to leave a message of condolence, which may be published online, as part of a celebration of the lives that

Giving your garden a spring clean?

Put grass, weeds and cuttings in your brown bin or bag and leave the rest to us.

Garden waste is collected every fortnight and turned into compost.



To see if your property has a garden waste collection, check your collection days or order a bin or reusable bag, visit www.hackney.gov.uk/recycling



London recycles

Hackney

Single mothers make up a startling 90 per cent of all lone parents in the UK

DID YOU KNOW?

SINGLE parents were entirely forgotten about at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic,” says Ruth Talbot, a campaigner to end discrimination towards single parents.

“It took 11 weeks for the Government to implement support bubbles for us.”

The impact on Ruth, a mum to two boys, seven and two, was immense: the lack of interaction with others, on top of the pressure to work, and homeschool and care for her youngest child – all without any outside support – took a toll on her mental health, as well as her physical wellbeing.

But the governmental oversight wasn’t surprising for Ruth, who runs Single Parents Rights, which is calling on the Government to add single parents as a protected characteristic to the Equality Act.

Lone parents have borne the brunt of generations-old stigmatisation and discrimination, which prioritises and canonises the traditional, nuclear family and inherently casts those who don’t fit this model as ‘other’.

The result is systemic disregard, at best, and oblique punishment, at worst. But, at a time of shifting patterns of what the family ‘norm’ looks like – with around one-third of all parents experiencing some period of single parenting – the current legislative and societal bias against single parenthood is strikingly anachronistic and in critical need of recalibration.

It is also a salient issue for Hackney residents, where single parents make up 11 per cent of households, compared to the London average of seven per cent. Figures that are also likely under-reported. But what is at the root of the bias?

“Single parents are an easy target,” explains Cllr Soraya Adejare, a single mum to a seven-year-old girl. “Despite us coming from every background

The pandemic has put brought daily inequalities faced by single parent families into focus

Protecting lone parents

“Stigma and stereotyping has created a lack of trust towards single parents”

and arising for a multitude of reasons, the common perception is of us being a bunch of scroungers.

“There remains a stigma associated with our family constructs, parents occupying this status often being viewed as a burden.”

Ruth agrees: “Stigma and stereotyping has created a lack of trust towards single parents. The discrimination towards single parents dates back generations and is espoused by some politicians and the media. This stigma means single parent families are often considered in a negative light compared to other families.”

It’s not just a social attitude problem. Single parents live with the real-life impact of that prejudice, from accessing affordable private rental accommodation to finding

work that is flexible enough to ensure they can fulfil the dual duties as main breadwinners and primary carers to their children.

Julie Hawkins, founder of Single Mums Business Network, and mum to an eight-year-old daughter, explains: “I have been rejected from many private rental properties and consequently paid higher rent and moving costs.

“I have to pay higher car insurance than when I was married; I do not get family discount packages on holidays, theme parks or day tickets for tourist attractions or family farm parks. I have been unable to apply for hundreds of suitable job roles due to being unable to fit work into childcare hours.”

The discrimination is far-reaching and impactful: a

couple earning a £98,000 combined income will receive full child benefit for one child, while a single parent on £60,000 will receive no child benefit for two children; couples, who both work, are able to access double the amount of childcare vouchers, regardless of the actual amount they spend on childcare; and offspring of couples enjoy double the inheritance tax threshold compared to those of single parents.

“The inadequacies of the Equality Act have to be addressed,” says Cllr Adejare. “It is unconscionable that any section of society should find itself discriminated against knowingly or not.”

Society’s frameworks, Ruth argues, need recasting: “The institutional bias means policy-makers, employers and public services assume there are two parents in a home and inadvertently exclude single parent families.”

Earlier this year Ruth brought a motion to Hackney’s Full Council, which called for single parents to be afforded similar protections to existing protected characteristics – such as age, sex, gender and disability. It was proposed by Cllr Adejare and seconded by Cllr Sophie Cameron, another single parent.

Research by Single Parent Rights shows that up to 80 per cent of single parents face discrimination – and this is worse for those on lower incomes, living with disabilities and black single parents and single parents of colour.

Cllr Adejare explains: “As a black woman of mixed heritage, with a

disability and of low socioeconomic circumstances, I am tied to a multitude of misconceptions, but also expectations in relation to my child. The dominant one being that single-parent homes such as mine spawn societal dysfunctionality; perpetuate a cycle of generational unemployment; and lead to poor educational outcomes in respect of our children.

“In addition to this, I received cutting remarks in relation to perceptions of my child’s father, based on stereotypical tropes targeted at the black community.”

The motion was unanimously passed, and the Council has now committed to continuing to embed equality in its practices and policies with regard to single parents: campaigning to ensure that single parent rights are protected at a national level; and advocating for single parent rights, working with local and national Government to ensure that single parents become a protected characteristic in the Equality Act.

The changes being demanded by the mothers – and supported by the Council – would see immediate benefits for both the families and society as a whole, including: greater single parent employment; reduced reliance on Government benefits; greater disposable income for single parents to spend in society; lower poverty levels for children of single parents; and better outcomes for the children of single parents.

Ruth says: “My children deserve a mother who is supported by society, not demonised. I want to ensure there is change.”

MORE INFO

If you’re interested in getting involved in the Single Parent Rights campaign, you can find more details on the website: singleparentrights.org and take action by signing its petition and writing to your MP. For more information on the Single Mum Business Network, visit: singlemumsbusinessnetwork.com

From top: Julie Hawkins, founder of Single Mums Business Network, and Kaylyn; Campaigner Ruth Talbot from Single Parents Rights; Cllr Adejare and her daughter

SINCE the start of the year, the Hackney Archives team has been working remotely with photographer and second-year Goldsmiths University history student Raven Lee to catalogue its collection of 'Hackney People's Press' images.

In celebration of Women's History Month, and to introduce the Hackney People's Press Collection to the public, Raven has brought together some of the stories from the many campaigns of the 1970s and 1980s covered by the paper that saw Hackney women take to the streets in protest.

Hackney People's Press, or HPP as many may remember it, was a radical community newspaper published in the borough from 1973 until 1985.

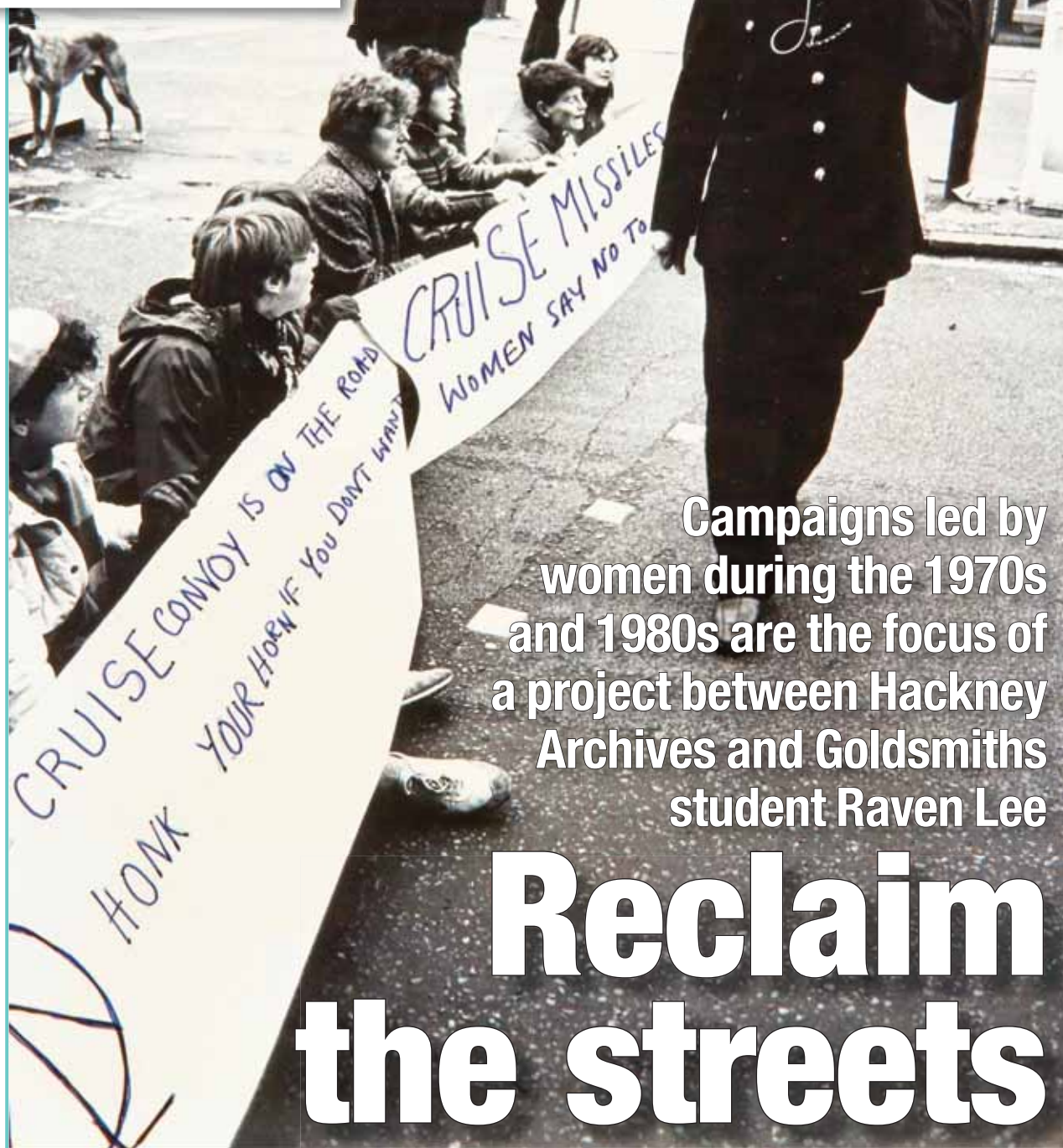
Hackney Archives has the privilege of holding a full collection of the newspapers as well as original photographs and documentation collected by the people who put the newspaper together.

The paper explicitly set itself up as a community resource – its back pages were frequently filled with adverts for local political organisations, campaign appeals, and general information about the issues and happenings within the borough.

Often remembered as one of the poorest areas of Britain at the time, a flick through the papers reveals a Hackney of the 1970s and 1980s alive with community organising, education, and solidarity.

From campaigns to improve the borough facilities such as housing, medical and education provision, to industrial action and strikes, to protests opposing the National Front – the Hackney People's Press covered it all (or as much as a community paper could at the time).

The paper extensively



Campaigns led by women during the 1970s and 1980s are the focus of a project between Hackney Archives and Goldsmiths student Raven Lee

Reclaim the streets

covered women's issues and protests – with issue 85's front page dedicated to a story about the establishment of a Women's Rights Sub-Committee in Hackney, the headline reading: 'Power to

Hackney Women'.

And there was a lot to cover; not only did women contend with standard labour disputes over pay and working conditions, they also campaigned extensively for abortion

rights and, famously, against the bringing of cruise missiles to Britain.

In essence, the women of Hackney not only fought for themselves, but for their communities – both on a local and global level.

The nursery campaign, the Hackney abortion campaign, and the anti-nuclear movements are just a fraction of the many causes that brought women onto the streets in protest in Hackney in the 1970s

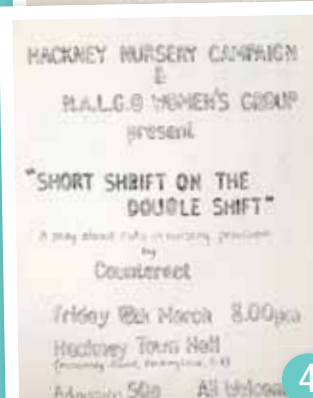
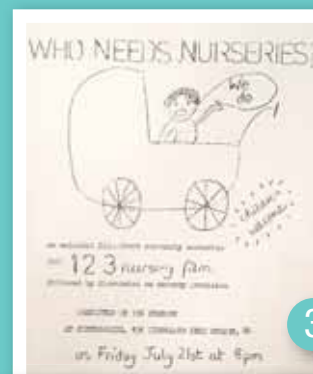
Pay gap for nursery staff

NURSERY staff, who were amongst the lowest paid of Council employees, took to the streets of Hackney in 1975, following the Council's decision to back-track on a pay increase agreement made the year before.

With the support of the local branches of the trade unions NALGO and NUPE, 80 women nursery workers embarked on a campaign, which they saw as not just about their working conditions, but about the general fight for better nursery facilities in the borough.

At the time, there were only seven day-nurseries in Hackney and the waiting list stood at about 1,000.

The nurseries were understaffed and better pay and conditions would mean that they could increase the capacity of the existing nurseries by up to 100. The women won their campaign, securing a 36-hour week and backdated pay.



and 1980s. If residents would like to know more about the issues that the Hackney People's Press reported on, or about Hackney during this period (and beyond), then follow

Hackney abortion campaign

MARCHING in opposition to Benyon's Bill; demanding the Council reverse its decision about Let Live; campaigning for the extension of abortion services – throughout the second half of the 1970s the Hackney abortion campaign (HAC) fought for abortion rights in the borough.

William Benyon was an anti-abortion, Conservative MP who, in 1977, proposed a bill that sought to restrict the 1967 Abortion Act by 'tightening loopholes'.

National demonstrations were organised to oppose the Bill, but Benyon was of particular significance to the people of Hackney, due to his ownership of a large amount of property in De Beauvoir. It is there, outside Benyon's home, that HAC made their opposition to the bill known.

On the 21st of January 1978, 150 people gathered outside Hackney Town Hall to protest the Council's decision to have anti-abortion group 'Let Live' open a hostel to provide housing to homeless young pregnant women (the issue was not with the provision of accommodation to the homeless, but with it being provided by an anti-abortion organisation known to be biased in its advice). The campaign was eventually successful, with Hackney Council rescinding its decision in June, announcing that the Council itself would take a more active role in homeless provision.

Working with local doctors, HAC also pushed for the extension of abortion services during the 1970s, campaigning specifically for the establishment of an accessible day-care abortion clinic in Hackney.

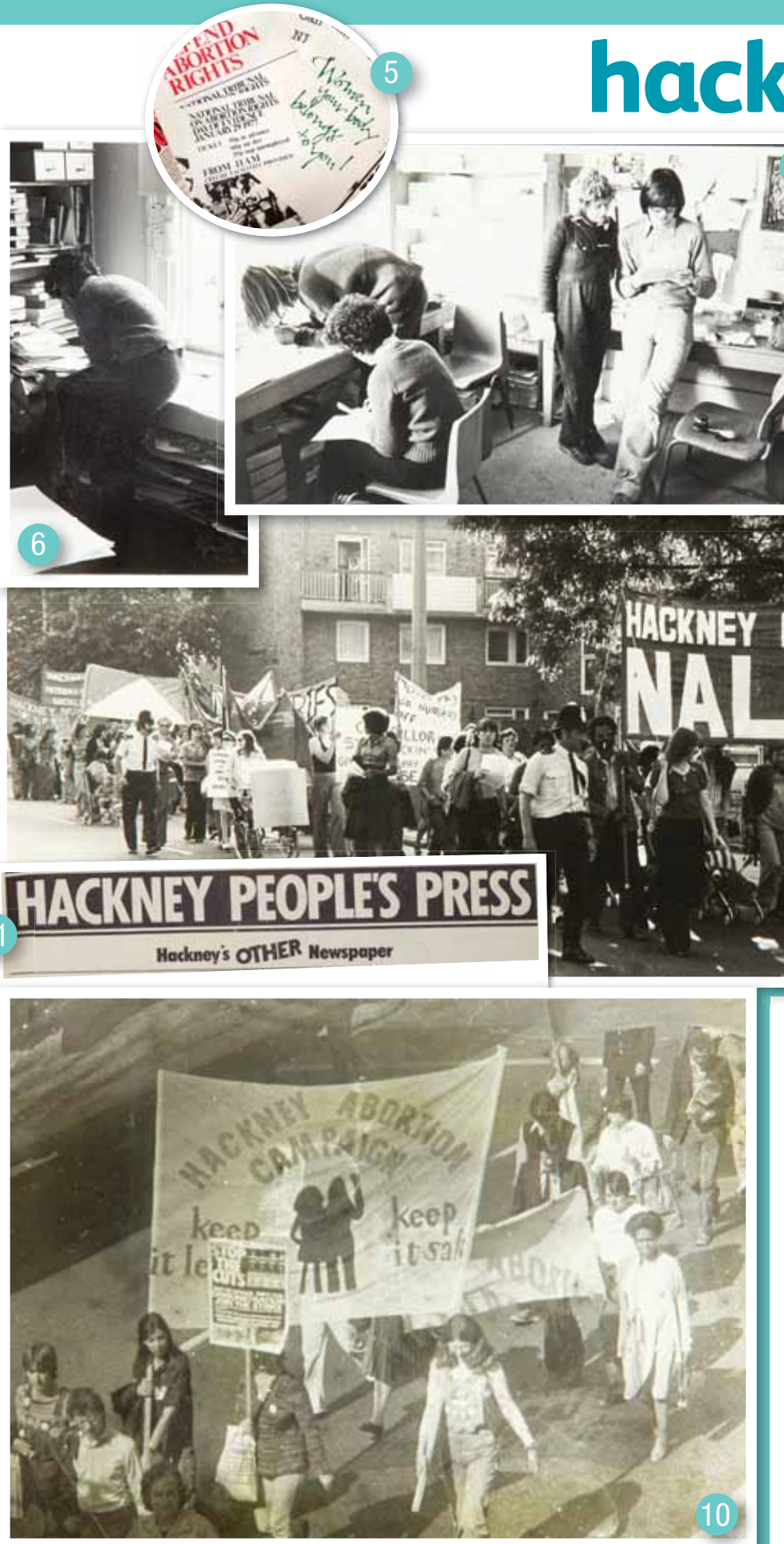
At that time, local women were being forced to pay a fee for doctors to provide letters falsifying accommodation addresses, so that they could attend the Mile End clinic.

Hackney Archives' social media pages, or contact the team via its email address: archives@hackney.gov.uk

The team would also love to hear from people who worked on or with Hackney People's Press.

As part of researching the collection the team has been reaching out to contributors to learn more about how the newspaper was run but also make sure everyone is accredited correctly. This is a work in

progress, and unfortunately the team does not always know who the images and text belongs to. If any of the images, illustrations or text featured in this article belong to you, please get in touch with the Archives.



1. Front cover of issue 85 of Hackney People's Press, published November 1985; 2. A sit-in protesting cruise missiles on Dalston Junction in March 1984 (D/B/HPP/01/048); 3 & 4. Campaign leaflets from the Hackney nursery campaign (1992/29 & 1988/34); 5. Abortion campaign leaflets and papers created and circulated by the Hackney abortion campaign (D/B/SMU); 6 & 7. Contributors to Hackney People's Press putting a copy together (D/B/HPP/01/348); 8. Article in the Hackney People's Press reporting on the CND peaceful protest, March 1984; 9. NALGO march supporting nursery workers, 1975 (D/B/HPP/02/324); 10. Hackney abortion campaign march, 1978 (D/B/HPP/01/007); 11. HPP's logo and slogan



missiles and the threat it poses. A spokeswoman said how encouraged and delighted they were by the general interest and support the camp aroused'.

The public interest in the issue proved that 'this really is relevant to Hackney'.

The HPP also contextualised the action by Hackney Greenham Women, explaining that the camp 'was just one of a nationwide series of such events planned to show that women are ready and prepared, all over the country, for when cruise missiles try to come out'."

Early on 29 March 1984, the day a cruise convoy left Greenham airbase and was on British roads, Hackney women took to the road at Dalston Junction to protest.

Halting traffic for 20 minutes, the women were determined to deliver their message that 'women say no to cruise'.

This action followed a similar one at the beginning of the month, in response to the first cruise convoy to break out of Greenham after the months-long delays, and both protests involved the women leafletting and talking with the public about the consequences of the acceptance of cruise convoys on British soil.

The Hackney People's Press reported that 'The message of the blockade to Hackney people was that Greenham women are everywhere – indeed many Hackney women are Greenham women. They are active not just at Greenham, but all over Britain. And they will go on being active...every cruise convoy will be met with publicity and delay. And will continue to be until cruise is removed from Britain and nuclear weapons from the world'.

The paper also ran an appeal at the bottom of the article, advising people how they could get involved in future actions.

Anti-nuclear arms campaign

ON 29 February 1984, a group of Hackney women set up camp outside Hackney Town Hall to deliver their message, 'send cruise missiles back to the US and remove this menace from here'. It was a 24-hour camp, organised by Hackney Greenham Women, with the full support and encouragement of Hackney Council.

Three 'benders' (wigwams like those used at Greenham proper) were erected and there was a picnic and music during the day, with a collective dinner and campfire made by those who stayed overnight.

As the Hackney People's Press reported at the time, 'the site made an excellent centre for passers-by to stop and discuss their attitudes to cruise

MORE INFORMATION

Hackney Archives will also be sharing images and stories from these campaigns on its social media pages at Twitter: [@HackneyArchives](https://twitter.com/HackneyArchives); Facebook: [@HackneyArchives](https://www.facebook.com/HackneyArchives) and, from 22 March, on Instagram: Search for [ArchivesHackney](https://www.instagram.com/HackneyArchives). For more information email: archives@hackney.gov.uk or visit: hackney.gov.uk/archives Alternatively, explore Hackney Archives' online catalogue at: bit.ly/HackneyArchive

PJ59261



HATE... FLYTIPPING? GRAFFITI? DOG FOULING? LITTER?

Report it with

LOVE CLEAN HACKNEY



lovecleanhackney.hackney.gov.uk



You can RECYCLE all of these ITEMS from your LOUNGE



Top tip:

- **Cardboard packing** from your online orders can also be recycled



If you are unsure about any items, want to check your collection day or order recycling bags, visit: www.hackney.gov.uk/recycling



what's on

PREVIEW

Cruise

15 – 25 April,
2.30pm/7.30pm

CRUISE is the true story of what should have been Michael Spencer's last night on Earth. When Michael is diagnosed with HIV in 1984, he's told he'll have four years to live – at most. So, with the clock ticking, he and his partner, Dave, decide to sell their house, flog the car, spend everything they have and party like it's the last days of Rome. Written and performed by Jack Holden, featuring a pulsating 1980s soundtrack performed live by John Elliott. Filmed at Shoreditch Town Hall. Online. £12. Info: stream.theatre/season/61



EVENTS

BETWEEN THE MARSHES TAI CHI

Various dates and times

Tai Chi classes around Hackney and online, for all ages and levels. £40 per month (up to three classes per week). Concessions available.

Info: betweenthemarshestaichi.com or call: 07812 356 415.

JULI'S BALLET FOR ALL

From 1 April, Thursdays, 11.30am-12.30pm

Learn ballet in a feel-good and relaxed atmosphere. These free classes are all about learning the basics of ballet, building connections, boosting self-esteem and practicing self care. Online, free. Info: julisballet.eventbrite.co.uk



THE HER INSIDE PERFORMANCE

25 March, 7.30pm

As part of Women's History Month, actors from Unfinished Histories, a Hackney-based alternative theatre charity, will perform a selection of writings from the blog 'Her Inside', which was created during the first lockdown. It includes contemporary plays, poems, short stories, essays, music and artworks. The evening will be a chance to celebrate and give space for women's voices from across the ages and now. Online. £5/10. Info: bit.ly/her_inside

READING FRIENDS WRITING GROUP

26 March, 11am-12.30pm

Learn how to write about your life. Use moments from your own family, cultural traditions, or turning points in your life to flesh out a chapter from beginning to end. Part of Hackney Libraries' events. Online, free. Info: bit.ly/writers_group_reading_friends

DUCKIE INTERNATIONAL

27 March, 9pm-12midnight

Duckie zooms around the world in 180 minutes, with Amy Lamé hosting a transborder transgender party. Six performance artists from six continents dance in their bedrooms to six pop records – starring Manjamma Jogathi, Kieron Jina, Andrew Tay, Joel Bray, Katarzyna Perlak and Pedro hfds. Online. £5.



Info: duckie.co.uk/events/duckie-international

VEGAN PUNJABI CUISINE

27 March, 5.30-7.30pm

Mother and daughter duo and passionate cooks, Aman and Sandeep will show you how to make Punjabi dishes, including authentic recipes that have been passed down from generations in their family. Online. £5/10/20.

Info: madeinhackney.org/whats-on/event/vegan-punjabi-cuisine

THE LOST POETS OF ABNEY PARK CEMETERY

31 March, 7-7.45pm

Join poet and writer Chris McCabe as he shares his findings from his forthcoming book, 'Buried Garden', which documents the lost poets of

Abney Park Cemetery. Chris will take you around Abney Park and reveal its not-so-obvious literary history, including graffiti on the tombs, the poetry of married couple George Linnaeus and Isabella Varley Banks, the spiritual work of Isaac Watts and Thomas Toke Lynch, and female poet of the First World War, Alison Cron.



Online, £6. Info: abneypark.org/virtual-events

EASTER HOLIDAYS AT HACKNEY LIBRARIES

1 – 16 April, various times

Get involved in a virtual storytelling experience, egg-stra special crafts and an Easter egg decorating contest. Part of Hackney Libraries' events. Online, free. Info: facebook.com/hackneylibraries

Promote your online arts and culture activities!

Are you a Hackney-based arts and culture organisation? The Council's Culture team would like to help promote any online events and activities for free. Visit: bit.ly/HackneyEventForm

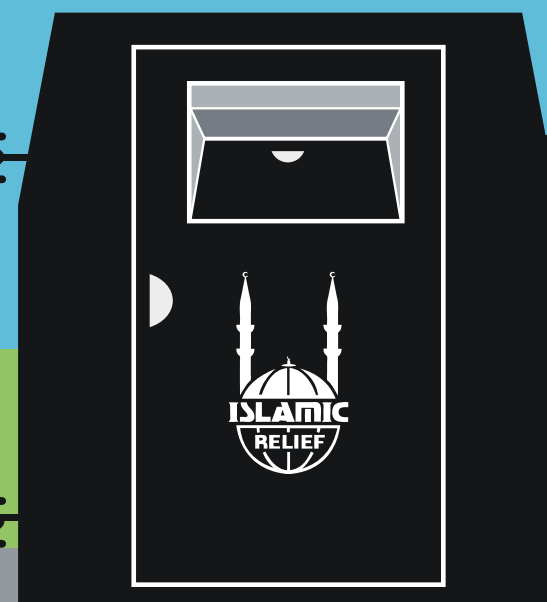
You might not love your old clothes any more, but someone else might.



So instead of throwing them in the bin, use our textile banks.



We even want things that can't be reused like worn out socks, tatty clothes and old bed sheets. 70% of items are sold to raise money for good causes. Everything else is shredded and turned into new items like cloths and blankets.



There are over 100 banks across Hackney.



Find your nearest at
www.hackney.gov.uk/recycling

PJ55194

 **Hackney**

Hackney is one of the most diverse places in the UK. In this regular feature, we profile the borough's great & good or just plain interesting

hackneypeople

JOURNALIST, author and photographer Irene Slegt has travelled extensively around the world as part of her job, but this past year she has intensely wandered the length and breadth of her De Beauvoir garden.

She says: "Because everyone is locked in and can't go anywhere I thought it would be a nice idea to go on mini safaris, either in the garden or the local park.

"As a citizen scientist I recorded my discoveries and added them to databases. I found something new in my garden every week. There are literally hundreds of tiny creatures living there.

"I discovered and photographed several species of bees, hoverflies and damselflies. But I also noticed that insects like earwigs, which I remember from my childhood, are harder to find."

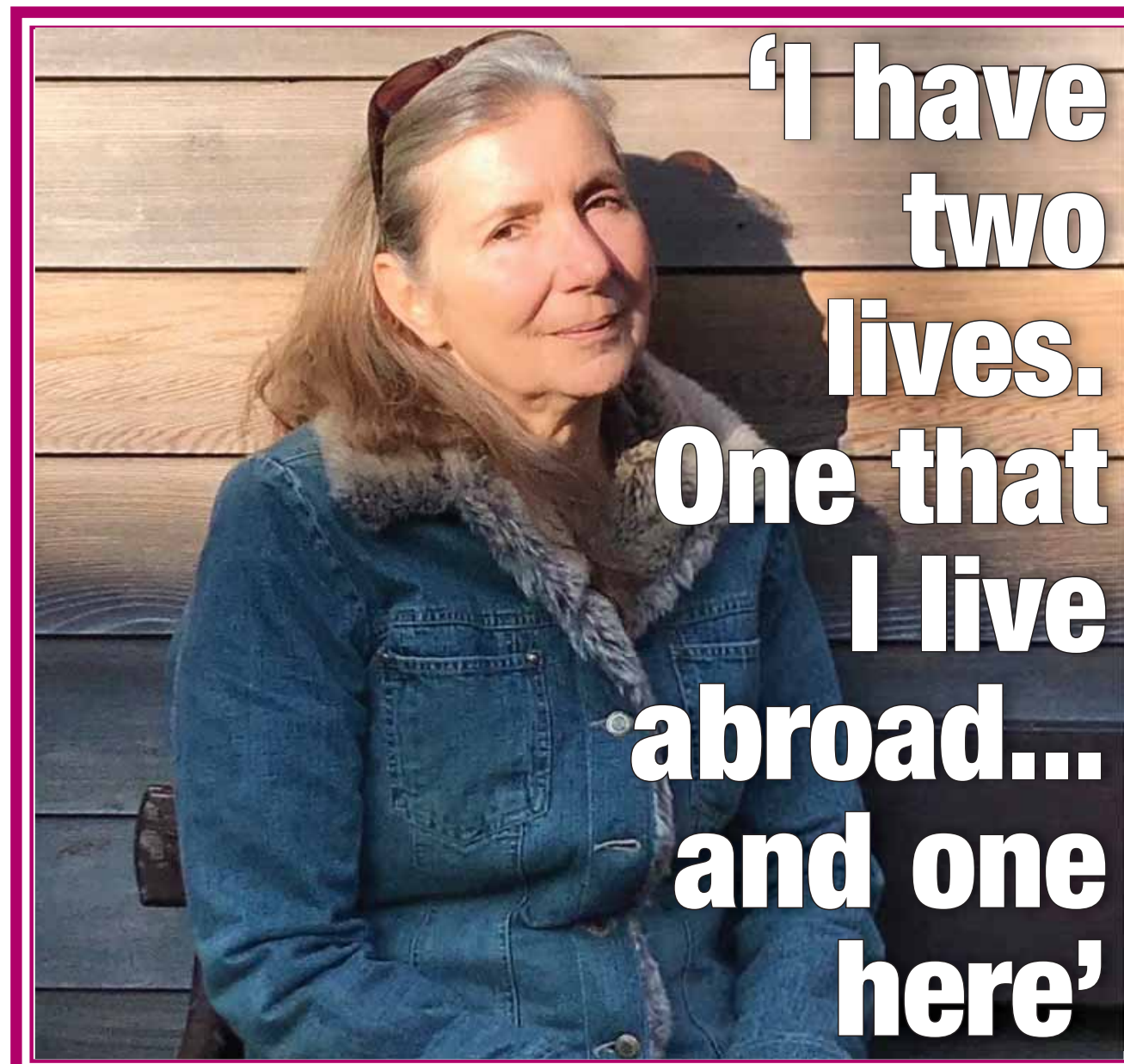
Irene was born just outside Amsterdam, in the Netherlands. After studying Social Sciences at university, she went on a year abroad to China, learned Mandarin, and was bewitched by the region. She set up a tour company in 1984, providing semi-guided tours to China.

In 1989, when the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests happened, she flew to China to record the events.

Irene recalls: "I was at Tiananmen Square when the army moved in, and I stayed there all night. All the Dutch journalists had left. That was a pivotal moment.

"When I came back to the Netherlands a radio station and a newspaper asked me to report for them from China. I often worked in very sensitive countries, travelling under cover, in Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Tibet, Kashmir, Mongolia and West Papua."

In 1994, Irene got an assignment to film the armed resistance in East Timor. She says: "This was a very dangerous job. We were deep undercover, it



Irene Slegt talks about her love of gardening, her favourite places to go in Hackney and keeping cool while reporting in a war zone

'I have two lives. One that I live abroad... and one here'

was very militarised – no other journalists were going there. We were smuggled in, but we were betrayed and followed in the deep of the night, and had to escape. We were deported and I couldn't go back to Indonesia until after the fall of Suharto in 1998."

Irene travelled back to East Timor to report on the unfolding crisis there. Violence erupted after East Timorese voters chose independence from Indonesia in 1999.

She says: "I like to immerse myself in people's lives, sharing their lives, if they allow me. In East Timor I was able to write from the inside out, instead of observing. My book 'East Timor's Bitter Dawn' more or less wrote itself. There was a natural

"Hackney is so multicultural and so diverse. When I'm homesick for Asia I go to Ridley Road and feel at home there"

story line – a curve with a dramatic moment in it. So many people lost their lives, a few of my friends lost their parents, and I was upset with the international community for putting their head in the sand."

Staying at home for the best part of the year, due to the global pandemic, must be a challenge for someone who regularly travels to different countries and meets new people for their work. But Irene has

taken the experience into her stride.

She says: "Lockdown is a really strange situation for someone who used to move every two weeks. But you get older – time becomes a different dimension – and it gets easier. You start to learn what to be content with and what to fight for.

"I have two lives. One that I live abroad, where I interview presidents and guerilla leaders, and one here, where I work for the Wildlife Trust, ZSL London Zoo and Feline Friends.

"I'm curious about what will happen in the future. I'm an optimist – but maybe

out of necessity. I think everyone can do something small and positive to their neighbourhood. If you can't travel the world, at least say hello to the people in your street. Give a little back."

Irene has been busy working in the local community for the Hackney-based cat rescue charity Feline Friends London and by offering free gardening advice.

She says: "I'm part of the De Beauvoir Gardeners' group, but I'm not a classic gardener. I like my garden to be a refuge for wildlife. We have a role as Londoners to create these safe spaces. If we can connect all the gardens in London we'd create mini nature reserves and help biodiversity.

"I'm very interested in how to balance the natural world. It's about finding the right plants for your garden that will flourish. Native plants are more pest-resistant than plants from other parts of the world."

Before the pandemic hit, when Irene wasn't busy working as a photographer and foreign correspondent or volunteering for charities closer to home, she enjoyed hanging out at Ridley Road market and Hackney Marshes.

She says: "Hackney is so multicultural and so diverse. When I'm homesick for Asia I go to Ridley Road and feel at home there. It's one of my favourite parts of London. I love the different languages you hear, the various things you can buy there, and the smells – in one moment you can be in Asia, and the next in Africa. It's a very special place.

"I also like the green, open space of Hackney Marshes and the Lea River. I go there quite often – I like to cycle along the canal and along the river. Hackney has a lot of good things."

Curriculum Vitae: Irene Slegt

1959	Born just outside Amsterdam, The Netherlands
1989	Meets her husband, Simon Long in Beijing
1991	Moves to Hackney
2002	Publishes 'Bitter Dawn: East Timor - A People's Story'
2019	Awarded the Order of East Timor
2020	Writes a weekly wildlife gardening column in De Beauvoir Association Newsletter
2021	Writing a book about Myanmar

MORE INFO

For more information on the De Beauvoir Gardeners, visit: debeauvoirgardeners.wordpress.com
For more info on Feline Friends, visit: felinefriendslondon.uk

Cheaper, greener, better nappies!



Thousands of parents are making the switch to real nappies.

Real cotton nappies are easy to use, soft on the skin and don't contain absorbent gels. They are cheaper than disposable ones, and could save you around £500 per baby.

Free £54 nappy voucher for Hackney residents.
Apply online or come to one of our events.



Meet local parents, chat about real nappies and claim your £54 voucher:

 **Hackney Central Library**
E8 1GQ

- Real nappy demos
- Advice and information about real nappies
- Pop-up nappy shop

Second Friday of the month
(term time only)
10.30am – 12noon


To claim your £54 voucher you must bring proof of ID, address and pregnancy or birth (within 18 months of birth)

 **The Round Chapel Old School Rooms, E5 0PU**

- “Give and take” tables for real nappies, baby clothes and maternity wear. You don't need to bring anything to take something away.
- Real nappy demos

Every two / three months.
Check website for dates.



 **www.hackney.gov.uk/nappies**
020 7324 4709

HD54399

 **Hackney**

More local news and events at:
www.facebook.com/WeLoveHackney;
 or: twitter.com/LoveHackney

KEEP UP
TO DATE

The truth behind the door

The London Homeless Collective and the Museum of the Home challenge perceptions of female homelessness



An online auction was launched on 19 March to raise funds for the new charity campaign, 'Behind the Door'. Examples of what's on offer are below

THE Museum of the Home has partnered with the London Homeless Collective – a group of more than 25 charities – to raise awareness, secure funds and challenge perceptions of female homelessness.

The museum has launched a new charity campaign, 'Behind the Door', to help support this new initiative.

Over the next two years, the museum and the collective will seek to raise money and awareness of homelessness among women and children, working with a range of partners to support the first-ever pan-London strategy on ending female homelessness by 2025.

Lucy Littlewood, director of partnerships at the Museum of the Home, said: "The new concept is rethinking how we live. We want to bring about change and be a museum for social good. Behind the Door brings that vision to life."

The Covid-19 pandemic has been a challenge for the charities working to support those individuals facing homelessness. In London, it is estimated that over 60



We want to bring about change and be a museum for social good. Behind the Door brings that vision to life

families every day are made homeless and face the loss of a stable and secure home.

For vulnerable women and families, in particular, some of the pressures including unaffordable rents, job loss, relationship breakdowns, and mental health issues can result in women and families becoming homeless.

Polly Neate, CEO of Shelter, a founding member of the London Homeless Collective, said: "We are thrilled to support this new campaign to spotlight and address the complex issues around homelessness for women and families."

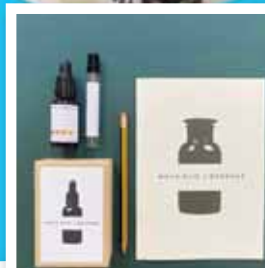
To help raise funds for the

charity, an online auction was launched on 19 March, featuring 40 donated pieces and experiences.

A selection of the auction lots on offer to bidders include: a cooking experience with Skye McAlpine at her home in Italy; a perfume workshop with Maya Njie; cocktails and dinner at Claridge's and an bespoke Anya Hindmarch box.

MORE INFO

For more info, to bid on the auction or to donate, visit: museumofthehome.org.uk/join-and-support/behind-the-door



News in brief

Learn to cook African meals

A NEW menu box aimed at supporting local businesses has been launched by a Hackney businesswoman.

N'dey Fatou created African Menu Box, organised by Dalston Round Table, to teach residents how to cook a meal native to an African country.

All ingredients are sourced from Ridley Road market and each box comes with fresh ingredients, a recipe and video instructions on how to cook the meal.

This March, the menu box explores the taste of Mali, with three dishes included: jollof rice, yassa and maafe.

The box usually costs £10, but will be £5 until 6 April.

For more info, or to order a menu box, visit:

holisticsupport.org.uk/dalston-round-table-menu-box



Clapton crypt crowdfunder



THE team behind the transformation of the ex-public toilets on Clapton Common into Liberty Hall has launched a new crowdfunder campaign.

North Hackney community network, Clapton Commons, has set a target of £58,000 to raise by 1 May to fit out the Common Rooms in the large undercroft of St Thomas Church, Upper Clapton.

Since launching last month, over 230 pledges have been made, totalling more than £36,000.

The team hopes to deliver an exercise studio, a fully-fitted kitchen, a canteen for community meals and events, six studios or meeting rooms and money for a youth mentoring programme.

For more info, or to donate, visit: spacehive.com/the-common-rooms-for-clapton

Free online courses available

NEW City College (NCC) is offering free online courses for residents aged 19 and over.

The four to 10 week courses are for anyone looking to upskill in their current role or improve their chances of getting back to work once lockdown eases. They can be studied at home and lead to a qualification.

Courses include administration, business, customer service, disability awareness, health care, health and wellbeing, management, safeguarding, team leading and many more.

Kayleigh Stevens, pictured, who works for BT, said: "I took two online courses – awareness of mental health and understanding data protection and security. I would definitely recommend this way of learning."

For more info on the free online courses, visit: nccclondon.ac.uk/distance-learning; email: distancelearning@nccclondon.ac.uk; or call: 020 7613 9123.



Hackney's executive **Mayor Philip Glanville** was directly elected by the borough in 2018. He is the political leader of the Council, overseeing the budget and all Council services. The Mayor holds monthly casework surgeries in the Town Hall. To book an appointment, email: mayor@hackney.gov.uk; or call: **020 8356 2212**. Residents are first encouraged to contact their ward councillor. Civic and ceremonial duties are undertaken by the Speaker of Hackney. The current Speaker is Cllr Kam Adams.

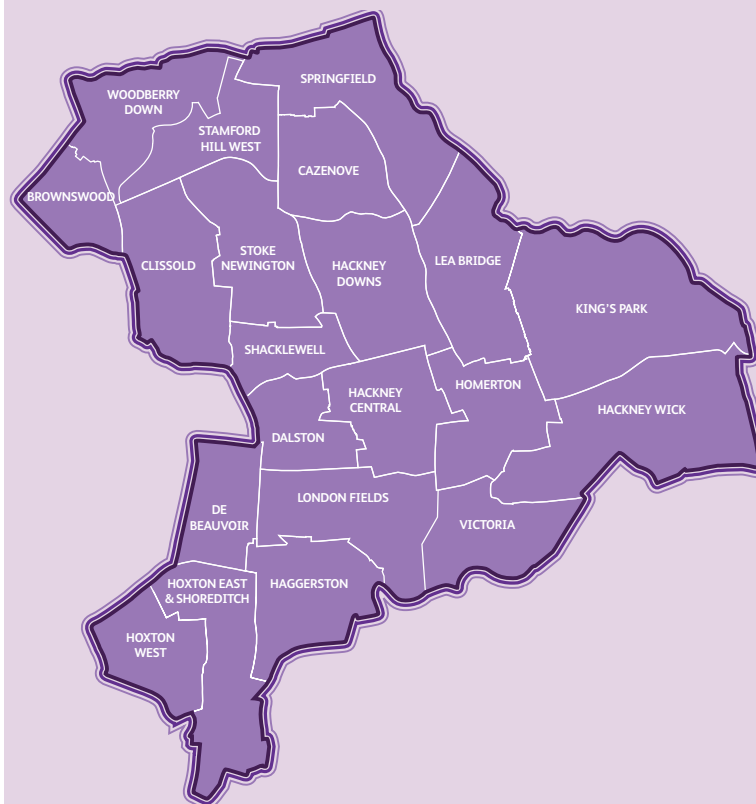


MAYOR PHILIP GLANVILLE

UPDATE ON SURGERIES

Physical surgeries have been replaced by virtual surgeries due to coronavirus. For more information, email your local councillor using the format **'firstname.lastname@hackney.gov.uk'** or call **0208 356 3373** to arrange a phone or video call.

Hackney's wards in alphabetical order



- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. BROWNWOOD | 9. HAGGERSTON | 16. SHACKLEWELL |
| 2. CAZENOVE | 10. HOMERTON | 17. SPRINGFIELD |
| 3. CLISSOLD | 11. HOXTON EAST & SHOREDITCH | 18. STAMFORD HILL WEST |
| 4. DALSTON | 12. HOXTON WEST | 19. STOKE NEWINGTON |
| 5. DE BEAUVOIR | 13. KING'S PARK | 20. VICTORIA |
| 6. HACKNEY CENTRAL | 14. LEA BRIDGE | 21. WOODBERRY DOWN |
| 7. HACKNEY DOWNS | 15. LONDON FIELDS | |
| 8. HACKNEY WICK | | |

Councillors are elected by residents and serve for four years. The last borough-wide elections took place in May 2018. Councillors have a range of responsibilities, including helping to oversee Council services. Residents can contact their local representative and ask them to take up issues of concern. Generally they can help with Council related matters, but if the issue is the responsibility of another person or organisation, councillors can often point people in the right direction and tell residents who they need to see. Hackney has 57 councillors representing areas called wards – see map left.

1. BROWNWOOD



Contact Cllr Brian Bell on email: brian.bell@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Clare Potter on email: clare.potter@hackney.gov.uk

6. HACKNEY CENTRAL



Contact Cllr Ben Hayhurst on email: ben.hayhurst@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Vincent Stops on email: vincent.stops@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Sophie Conway on email: sophie.conway@hackney.gov.uk

2. CAZENOVE



Contact Cllr Anthony McMahon on email: anthony.mcmahon@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Sam Pallis on email: sam.pallis@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Caroline Woodley on email: caroline.woodley@hackney.gov.uk

7. HACKNEY DOWNS



Contact Cllr Michael Desmond on email: michael.desmond@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Anna-Joy Rickard on email: anna-joy.rickard@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Sem Moema on email: sem.moema@hackney.gov.uk

3. CLISSOLD



Contact Cllr Sophie Cameron on email: sophie.cameron@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Kofo David on email: kofo.david@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Sade Etti on email: sade.etti@hackney.gov.uk

8. HACKNEY WICK



Contact Cllr Christopher Kennedy on email: christopher.kennedy@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Jess Webb on email: jessica.webb@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Nick Sharman on email: nick.sharman@hackney.gov.uk

11. HOXTON EAST & SHOREDITCH



Contact Cllr Kam Adams on email: kam.adams@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Stephen Race on email: steve.race@hackney.gov.uk

14. LEA BRIDGE



Contact Cllr Margaret Gordon on email: margaret.gordon@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Ian Rathbone on email: ian.rathbone@hackney.gov.uk or call: 07890 654 068.

Contact Cllr Deniz Oguzkanli on email: deniz.oguzkanli@hackney.gov.uk

19. STOKE NEWINGTON



Contact Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas on email: susan.fajanathomas@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Mete Coban on email: mete.coban@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Gilbert Smyth on email: gilbert.smyth@hackney.gov.uk

4. DALSTON



Contact Cllr Soraya Adejare on email: soraya.adejare@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Peter Snell on email: peter.snell@hackney.gov.uk
Or call: 07941 179 129.

9. HAGGERSTON



Contact Cllr Ajay Chauhan on email: ajay.chauhan@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Humaira Garasia on email: humaira.garasia@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Patrick Spence on email: patrick.spence@hackney.gov.uk

12. HOXTON WEST



Contact Cllr Clayeon McKenzie on email: clayeon.mckenzie@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Carole Williams on email: carole.williams@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Yvonne Maxwell on email: yvonne.maxwell@hackney.gov.uk

15. LONDON FIELDS



Contact Cllr Anntoinette Bramble on email: anntoinette.bramble@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Can Ozsen on email: mcan.ozsen@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Emma Plouviez on email: emma.plouviez@hackney.gov.uk

20. VICTORIA



Contact Cllr Katie Hanson on email: katie.hanson@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Clare Joseph on email: clare.joseph@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Penny Wrout on email: penny.wrout@hackney.gov.uk

5. DE BEAUVOIR



Contact Cllr Polly Billington on email: polly.billington@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr James Peters on email: james.peters@hackney.gov.uk

10. HOMERTON



Contact Cllr Robert Chapman on email: robert.chapman@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Guy Nicholson on email: guy.nicholson@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Anna Lynch on email: anna.lynch@hackney.gov.uk

13. KING'S PARK



Contact Cllr Sharon Patrick on email: sharon.patrick@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Rebecca Rennison on email: rebecca.rennison@hackney.gov.uk

16. SHACKLEWELL



Contact Cllr Michelle Gregory on email: michelle.gregory@hackney.gov.uk

Contact Cllr Richard Lufkin on email: richard.lufkin@hackney.gov.uk

21. WOODBERRY DOWN



Contact Cllr Caroline Selman on email: caroline.selman@hackney.gov.uk

A healthy eating programme from Shoreditch Trust


www.shoreditchtrust.org.uk




THIS is a recipe from Shoreditch Trust's community kitchen's cooking course, which the Trust is running from April. The sessions cover topics around healthy eating and shopping and discussing simple recipe ideas. This tuna burgers recipe is a fast, healthy and easy beef burger alternative. It is great served with a salad and some herb mayonnaise. If you would like to find out more information on the cooking sessions running at Shoreditch Trust, email: food@Shoreditchtrust.org.uk

Easy tuna burgers

Serves 2-3

Preparation time 
45 mins

Cooking time 
10 mins

Ingredients

- 2 spring onions
- 2 tbsps of oil
- 1 egg beaten
- 2 cans of tuna
- Zest of a lemon
- Chopped parsley
- 80g of bread crumbs
- Pinch of salt and pepper to season

Herby mayonnaise and burger filling:

- 1 sprig of mint, chopped
- Mayonnaise
- Lettuce, rocket or mixed salad
- Juice of half a lemon
- 1 tsp of ground paprika.

Method

- Chop the spring onion and parsley and open your tin of tuna

- Drain the tuna of its oil or water and add the chopped herbs and onion
- Salt and pepper the mix and add the zest of the lemon
- Mix all together with the added bread crumbs and crack an egg into the mix
- Divide and shape the mix into 4 patties and place on a plate. Leave in the fridge for 30 minutes
- Whilst the patties are in the fridge prepare your herby mayonnaise by finely chopping the mint and mix with 4-5 tablespoons of mayonnaise, paprika and the 1/2 juice of a lemon
- After 30 minutes, heat a pan with the vegetable oil and cook the patties for 5 minutes on each side until golden brown
- Place the cooked patties inside the wholemeal buns, spread the mayonnaise on top of the burger and add your lettuce.

More info

For more information, or to book, call: 020 7033 8529; e-mail: food@shoreditchtrust.org.uk; or visit: www.shoreditchtrust.org.uk/Food-for-Life

Shoreditch Trust

Play and park improvements at Clapton Pond and Clissold

THE Council is asking residents to have their say on new design proposals for Clapton Pond play area and Clissold Park.

Over the next year, the Council is set to improve a number of play areas in Hackney to make sure that they are fun and exciting for children. This is part of Hackney's commitment to be a child-friendly borough.

Clapton Pond play area

The Council is improving the play area in Clapton

Pond with new equipment, including a big bird climbing frame with a wide slide, a tunnel and a family of wooden ducks. The play space will also be expanded into the adjoining lawn area where new landform will help shape the space and provide a home for the wooden ducks. The new equipment was suggested by the park's user group.

Clissold Park

The old paddling pool in Clissold Park has reached the end of its life. The

Council has been working with the park's user group on a replacement facility.

The design proposals include a new children's splash pad on the site of the former bowling green and a range of options for the site of the former paddling pool – including outdoor gym equipment and wildflower meadows.

To view both sets of designs, and to have your say on these proposals, visit: www.hackney.gov.uk/playgrounds



Meetings

COUNCIL MEETINGS IN MARCH

23	Licensing Sub Committee	7pm
24	Health and Wellbeing Board	4pm
25	Licensing Sub Committee	7pm
30	Licensing Sub Committee	7pm
31	Appointment Sub Committee	9am
31	Health in Hackney Scrutiny Commission	7pm

COUNCIL MEETINGS IN APRIL

6	Licensing Sub Committee	2pm
7	Planning Sub Committee	6.30pm

8	Licensing Sub Committee	7pm
12	Cabinet Procurement Committee	5pm
13	Licensing Sub Committee	7pm
15	Licensing Sub Committee	2pm
20	Licensing Sub Committee	2pm
21	Audit Committee	6.30pm
22	Licensing Sub Committee	7pm
26	Cabinet	6pm
27	Licensing Sub Committee	7pm

Info: 020 8356 3316/3302/3312; or visit: www.hackney.gov.uk/council-and-elections

Sudoku

For solutions see:
www.hackney.gov.uk/hackneytoday

Easy

4		1		3		8	5	
3					9		7	4
	6						2	
	3					9	8	
			7	8	1			
	8	7					4	
	2						1	
7	1		4					8
	4	9		6		7		5

Medium

			9		6	5	8	
5					7			4
		9		4				
				2	9	8	3	
	3	7				9	2	
	5	2	8	6				
				3		4		
1			2					9
	7	8	6		4			

Easter and Passover rubbish and recycling collections

Friday 26 March – Saturday 10 April

Collections will take place one day later than normal due to the holidays. Please move your bins and green sacks to the edge of your property by 6am on your collection day.

Usual collection day	Revised collection day
Friday 26 March (Start of Passover)	Saturday 27 March
Friday 2 April (Easter Friday)	Saturday 3 April
Monday 5 April	Tuesday 6 April
Tuesday 6 April	Wednesday 7 April
Wednesday 7 April	Thursday 8 April
Thursday 8 April	Friday 9 April
Friday 9 April	Saturday 10 April

Waste is now collected every two weeks. To find out your collection date please go online.



Find out more:
hackney.gov.uk/rubbish



hackneytoday

Circulated to 108,000 homes and businesses by Hackney Council

Issue 460 21 March 2021

Rebuilding a better borough

2021/22 Budget

Your guide to
Council Tax, how we
spend your money
and some of the
services you can
expect from your
Council in 2021/22

inside

2



Coronavirus: latest

22



Power to women

25



What's On

27



Hackney
People

29



Behind the Door



Pull out

Our Homes

 Hackney

'We're offering extra support at a time when our residents need it most'



WATCH a video from the Mayor of Hackney about the Council's priorities for the year ahead at hackney.gov.uk/budget



ON 24 February, councillors and I agreed the Council's budget for the year ahead.

I am immensely proud of our budget, because it will make a positive difference to all residents and businesses in Hackney, and enable us to continue to deliver truly borough-changing projects.

The coronavirus pandemic

is the greatest challenge of our generation and has had a devastating impact on residents, businesses and the Council alike.

Hundreds of our residents have died – each death devastating for family and friends left behind – and my thoughts are with each and every one of them.

Whilst there may now be some light at the end of the tunnel, we know the impact of sickness, self-

isolation and the wider effect of the lockdown on the local economy has affected many people's incomes, and that finances will continue to be a big concern for many people in the borough.

It has also been an incredibly tough 12 months for the Council and our staff: responding to the economic and social impact of the Covid pandemic, as well as responding to the increasing

demand for our services. It all means our finances have been hit hard and that's why it's important that we raise extra money through Council Tax.

Here we go into more detail about the budget challenges the Council faced over the past 12 months and why, as a result, we need to increase Council Tax bills for most of you by 4.99 per cent; we also show what extra help and

support we're offering our most vulnerable residents at a time when they need it most; what the Council has achieved for the borough, despite the challenges of last year; and how we plan to rebuild a better Hackney as we move out of the pandemic.

Philip Glanville

Philip Glanville
Mayor of Hackney

Our budget challenge

THE financial help and support we've provided for residents and businesses over the past year is unprecedented.

But it means the Council faced a £58million budget shortfall equal to nearly half of the entire Government cuts to our budget since 2010 – in just one year.

Government grants have helped us to balance the books this year, and we will receive some Government support for the coming three years.

But, nevertheless, we will be left with funding challenges that will impact us for years to come.

The Council has been working behind the scenes – through efficiencies, insourcing and better use of our buildings – to make

savings to ensure your frontline services continue to function well and that we can keep supporting our most vulnerable in the most difficult of times.

Despite this, we still need to make nearly £11m of savings this coming year. That is why the Council is increasing Council Tax by 4.99 per cent.

However, Hackney will still

MOST residents will pay less than £1 extra a week as a result of the increase in Council Tax

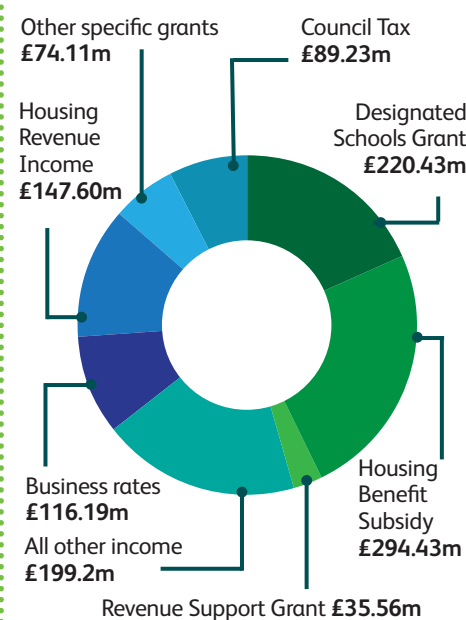
Council Tax valuation bands								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Hackney Council	£825.65	£963.25	£1,100.86	£1,238.47	£1,513.69	£1,788.91	£2,064.12	£2,476.95
GLA	£242.44	£282.85	£323.25	£363.66	£444.47	£525.29	£606.10	£727.32
Total	£1,068.09	£1,246.10	£1,424.11	£1,602.13	£1,958.16	£2,314.20	£2,670.22	£3,204.27

have one of the lowest Council Tax rates in London. When the Government confirmed funding for local councils last year, it was on the basis that we would increase Council Tax. If we don't, we simply won't have the money to provide the important services we all need. Most residents will pay less than £1 extra a week as a result of the increase, but it will mean we can raise more than £4million to fund essential services that you rely on. These include:

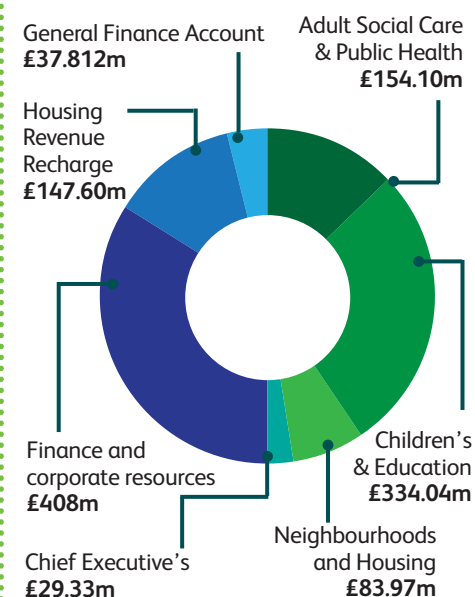
libraries; social care for children and adults; measures to reduce poverty; resources to tackle the climate emergency; community safety and; services and activities for young people.

And crucially, we are coupling this increase with extra critical investment for those who need it most by increasing the amount of direct funding and support available to our lowest-income households, as part of our commitment to reducing poverty across the borough and protecting our most vulnerable.

Where our funding comes from....



... and how we spend it



What we have achieved despite the pandemic

WE'VE spent nearly £220million supporting residents and businesses through the pandemic.

This includes nearly £160m in additional support to local businesses through grants and rates relief and £21m to fund a range of additional support for residents, including:

- £1.8m supporting our schools – such as helping provide and deliver thousands of laptops to school children learning at home.

WE HAVE spent nearly £220m supporting residents and businesses through the pandemic.

- £1.6m on supporting families with children on free school meals, and on food and essentials for the clinically extremely vulnerable.

- £1.5m for care homes to help reduce Covid transmission and support the workforce.
- £1.2m on support and emergency accommodation for homeless residents.

- And £742k on opening seven Covid testing hubs and supporting the set-up of four vaccination centres.

We've all done this, while responding to increasing demand for our services in the most challenging of circumstances.

The Council has continued to deliver impressive projects for residents, over the past 12 months, despite the pandemic, including:

- Continuing our build of the new Britannia Leisure Centre and Shoreditch Park Academy, which are due to open this summer;
- Building 200 genuinely affordable new Council homes;
- Bringing £6million-worth of services in-house;
- Switching the Council's energy supply to 100 per cent

renewable energy;

- And continuing our multi-award-winning apprenticeships programme, employing a further 55 local people this year, bringing our total apprentices to more than 100.

We've also maintained our investment in the voluntary sector, and increased our investment in domestic abuse services, which sadly saw a rise in demand over the pandemic.

And we've integrated our adult skills and employment services to ensure residents get the help they need if they have lost their job.

Rebuilding a better Hackney

THIS year has been a test for our country, our borough and every household.

Sadly, while we have all been affected in some way, this crisis has exposed the cruel inequality

in our society, including the disproportionate impact on our diverse communities.

We also cannot ignore the fact that those with the least resources to cope have

been affected most.

However, the Council has committed to supporting those most disadvantaged in our borough, campaign on their behalf, and seek a more

equal recovery.

The Council's mission, as we recover from the pandemic, is to rebuild a better Hackney, that means:

- A borough that is safer

and healthier;

- That we use our powers to create a fairer society and economy;
- And that we ensure Hackney's recovery is a green one.

Rebuilding safer and healthier

CRIME and safety is a really important issue for residents.

That's why we will continue to invest in the services we all value, that keep us safe and healthy. Some of the ways our budget will do that this year is:

- By investing £7m on continued funding of the Integrated Gangs Unit, supporting people out of gangs; in expanding our CCTV network; and on maintaining our enforcement and civil protection services.
- By investing in our parks and green spaces to ensure our residents have the space to exercise and stay healthy, this includes £3.5m into Abney Park; £1.25m into play areas

and nearly £1m into our parks infrastructure.

- We are investing £3.1m into Kings Hall Leisure Centre and are also opening our new

WE ARE
investing
£3.1m
into Kings Hall
Leisure Centre

Britannia Leisure Centre this summer.

- We are investing £5m into building two

WE ARE
investing
£4m
into maintaining
our streets
and roads

new GP-led primary care facilities in the borough – to ensure residents have access to fit-for-purpose

healthcare facilities.

- And by investing £4m into maintaining our streets and roads, as well as targeted improvement work.

For more information about the Council's budget, the Adult Social Care Precept and what the Council spends on services, write to:
Council Tax, Hackney Service Centre, 1 Hillman Street, London, E8 1DY

Rebuilding greener

WE ARE passionate about reclaiming our roads and streets for people, reducing carbon emissions and improving our borough's air quality to respond to the climate emergency.

We're rebuilding a greener Hackney following the pandemic, and creating cleaner, quieter

neighbourhoods so our residents can walk, shop, cycle and get around safely.

Some of the ways our budget will do that this year is:

- By investing £3m over the next few years to switch all our street lights to energy-efficient LED bulbs.

- By investing £1m into making our estates greener.
- By creating more School Streets.
- By investing £200k into the Green Homes Fund to roll-out free home insulation, helping lower

WE ARE
investing
£3m
to switch all our
street lights to
energy efficient
LED bulbs

energy bills for thousands of local residents and significantly reducing the gases produced

by heating our homes – managed through our municipal energy company 'Hackney Light and Power'.

- By investing £700k to deliver solar panel installation on the Council's existing roof spaces.
- By planting thousands of new trees in our streets, parks and green spaces.
- And by switching to fortnightly refuse collection to reduce emissions caused by incinerating black bag waste.



READ the full Budget report at hackney.gov.uk/budget

Rebuilding fairer

AS WE move to rebuild Hackney out of the pandemic, we'll continue to support residents who need extra help, and embrace the opportunity to find long-term solutions to systemic problems like rough sleeping, and those who have ready-access to computers and the internet and those who don't.

Our business community, town centres and high streets have been badly affected by the impact of closures and social distancing.

Thousands of residents' jobs have been affected, and we know we must find new ways to help people find meaningful work and training, to support our small businesses, and to ensure our town centres and public spaces are used

for public good.

We will rebuild a fairer Hackney by: reducing poverty; creating an inclusive economy, where more people have access to better, more stable jobs; we will seek lasting solutions to London's housing crisis and homelessness; we

WE ARE building new, genuinely affordable Council homes, of which

more than **50%**

will be for social rent, shared ownership or Hackney Living Rent

will support all our children and families to thrive; and we will improve community wellbeing and tackle health inequalities.

Some of the ways our budget will do that this year is:

- By investing in our skills and employment services to ensure that Hackney residents get the help they need if they have lost their job or need more support.
- By investing in our young people and helping

give them the best start in life through the delivery of high-quality secondary school places, including extending The Urswick School.

- We're also expanding our special education needs provision this year, including the opening of the new Garden School facility for our most vulnerable children.
- We will continue our regeneration of our town centres to support local businesses and improve

our places for our residents, including nearly £1m, this year, into work in Dalston, Hackney Central and Hackney Wick.

And we're continuing to bring more staff in-house this year – growing our direct workforce by

10 per cent – to provide more stable jobs and to ensure services that work for you are more accountable, innovative and better value-for-money.

WE ARE investing

£64m

on improving existing social housing – £17m more than last year

WE ARE investing more than

£1.6m

this year into ongoing refurbishments of Stoke Newington and Stamford Hill libraries

Help and support

CURRENTLY, low-income, working-age residents who qualify for Hackney's Council Tax Reduction Scheme get up to 85 per cent of their Council Tax paid.

We already put £26million into this reduction scheme, which helps more than 30,000 low-income families, pensioners and care leavers to pay their Council Tax.

And from April, the Council

will set aside £1.4m more to reduce the bills of low-income working-age residents by a further £60 a year.

The majority of pensioners on low-incomes and young people leaving care will continue to get all of their Council Tax paid.

The Council will also make available an extra £900,000 of targeted investment into tackling poverty and inequality, including:

- £500,000 supporting those

disproportionately impacted by the Covid crisis.

- £300,000 helping reduce school exclusions and improving the life chances of young people in the borough.
- £100,000 helping those excluded from support due to Government criteria on accessing public funds.
- The Council will also add an extra £100,000 into its Discretionary Crisis Fund to help those in financial crisis.

This is on top of £500,000 we invested in that fund last year.

If you're struggling, talk to us to get the help you need. You may be entitled to support to help pay your Council Tax through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme or the Council Tax Discretionary Fund.

For more details, call: **020 8356 3399** or visit: **hackney.gov.uk/discretionary-hardship-scheme**

We're also providing more funding to help those affected by the pandemic, and can help you get the financial assistance you're entitled to.

If you're in financial difficulty or need essential items – such as food, clothing or appliances – talk to us, we may be able to help. Call: **020 8356 3000** and ask to apply for discretionary crisis support. Visit: **hackney.gov.uk/discretionary-crisis-support-scheme**

- If you have any other financial worry and need help, call: **020 8356 3111** or visit: **hackney.gov.uk/coronavirus-ask-for-help**

